The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Hamburg, 20 February 1977
Sixteenth Year - No. 775 - By air

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Genscher optimistic over a Middle East settlement



Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher returned from his four-day fact-finding mission in the Middle East convinced that the outlook for a Middle East peace is exceptionally good, although 1977 might not yet bring a settlement of the dispute between Israel and the Arabs.

UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim was somewhat less optimistic following his own tour of the area. On his departure from Cairo Herr Waldheim said that it was unlikely that the Geneva Peace Conference would reconvene in the near future, since the question of the participation of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) was still undecided.

There is only seemingly a discrepancy between the statement of Herr Genscher and that of the UN Secretary-General. Hans-Dietrich Genscher had long-range perspectives in mind, while the Secretary-General was commissioned by the UN Security Council to establish current facts.

And indeed, Herr Genscher, too, does not anticipate any major change in the Middle East in the immediate future. In fact, he even stressed that rushing matters would not help bring about a settlement.

Herr Genscher holds the view that, before reconvening the Geneva Conference, it will be necessary to await the outcome of both the Palestine Conference in Cairo, which is scheduled for 12 March, and the general elections in Israel, expected to take place in May.

Both these events are fraught with uncertainties. The Palestine Conference will chart the PLO's future policy vis-a-vis Israel as well as determining the conditions for the PLO's participation in Geneva.

The Arab "front states", Egypt, Syria and Jordan, are at present making an all-out effort to stem the influence of radical elements on the forthcoming Palestine Conference which has so far had to be postponed twice.

A major issue under discussion in Arab capitals is the question whether the Palestinians should take part in the Geneva Conference as part of an all-Arab delegation. Egypt's President Sadat has certain reservations about such a course of action.

He would prefer to see the PLO incorporated in the delegation of Jordan. The PLO itself, on the other hand, seems to favour a flexible attitude, as intimated by a letter addressed to Austria's Chancellor Bruno Kreisky which was made public last weekend.

According to this letter, a state of "non-war" could be established between a Palestinian state and the state of Israel. But whether or not this initiative is to be taken seriously will not be known until the forthcoming Palestine Conference in March.

There can, however, be no doubt that Egypt, Syria and Jordan would like to see the Federal Republic take part in the Geneva Conference. But Herr Genscher made it quite clear that his government did not favour such a move, stressing the European character of Bonn's Middle East policy. And in the end his view not only prevailed but was actually accepted as sound reasoning by most Middle East politicians.

Apart from the major mediator in the Middle East – the United States – Europe can only be termed "en vogue" at present in that region.

Egypt's President Sadat and his Syrian opposite number, Assad, expressed the hope that the Nine would exert a "moderating influence" on Israel and that they would subsequently participate in peace guarantees. Herr Genscher raised no objections.



Egyptian President Anwar el Sadat with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in Cairo (Photo: dpa)

Foreign Minister Genscher welcomed the fact that Egypt, Syria and Jordan (with Saudi Arabia in the background) are today pulling in the same direction politically. All three have stressed their desire for peace, though they also made it clear that another war was possible should peace efforts fail.

In concrete terms, Sadat, Assad and Jordan's King Hussein still demand that Israel vacate all occupied Arab territories; *that it recognise the rights of* Palestinians and that it remove Israeli settlements in the occupied territories ... the latter being particularly irksome to the Arabs.

Sadat assured Herr Genscher that, once these conditions have been met, the three Arab nations involved would be prepared to accept any form of guarantee. And King Hussein, in an interview, even went so far as to speak of a possibility of cooperation with Israel.

But all this lies in the future, and it is still uncertain whether or when it will come to pass.

Even so, the Soviets are annoyed. A few days ago, *Izvestia* polemicised against "ractionary forces in the Arab world" and against the idea of a union between Jordan and a Palestinian state.

But the Soviet attack failed to impress Cairo, Damascus and Amman. There, all hopes are pinned on the United States, and this goes greatly against the extremists' grain as borne out by the fact that US Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has been threatened with a bomb attack during his forthcoming Middle East mission.

Bernt Conrad
(Die Welt, 14 February 1977)

IN THIS ISSUE

Genscher explains Bonn's stand during Middle East tour



The explosive Middle East was abuzz with diplomatic peace activities when Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher visited the region.

UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim was there at the same time, probing the possibilities of a resumption of the Geneva Peace Talks in the near future.

The major bugbear at present seems to be the problem of Palestinian representation at the Geneva talks.

Herr Genscher's objectives were somewhat more modest than those of the UN Secretary-General.

The restoration of peace in the Middle East is of paramount importance for the European Community and the Federal Republic. Oil shipments from the Arab countries will remain the most important source of energy of the West's industrialised nations for many decades to come.

On the other hand, oil sales to the West are to provide the economic basis *for a modernisation and industrialisation* of the Arab world.

One of Herr Genscher's objectives in visiting Syria, Jordan and Egypt (countries with whom the EEC has preferential tariff agreements) was to promote the understanding of these facts. It was thus only natural for Herr Genscher to be accompanied by State Secretary Rohwedder of the Bonn Ministry of Economic Affairs as well as representatives of this country's industry, who *will explore the possibility of bilateral* development projects.

Bonn's and the EEC's "balanced" Middle East policy is, according to an interview which Herr Genscher gave to a Syrian newspaper, marked by close and friendly relations with both Israel and the Arab world.

It will be necessary to pay particular attention to this balance if peace efforts in this region are to bear fruit. And this is anything but an easy path to tread considering the animosities between the feuding parties. But the general impression is that there has been much more understanding lately for Bonn's and the EEC's motivations.

The latest round in the dialogue between the Arab League and the Nine in Tunis, which has just ended, follows a rapid increase in Arab-European trade during the past two years.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 9 February 1977)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Nato rethinks its defence strategy

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Suddenly last autumn Nato planners seem to have resolved to make amends for sins of omission committed over the previous decade. The strategic debate within Nato has since resembled nothing so much as the Tower of Babel.

Having failed for so long to adapt security doctrines to the exigencies of a changing world, Nato's backroom boys now seem intent on clearing the backlog at breakneck speed, falling over themselves to advance one intrepid theory after another.

Any number of specialists are admitting to scepticism about the flexible response strategy, which is based on a graduated approach to the given military situation.

About time too, you may well feel. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* has certainly rejected the flexible response strategy from its inception, arguing that an approach which is unrealistic can hardly prove effective.

The trouble is that the current reappraisal is aimed at changes in detail and emphasis rather than in substance. The triad concept, for instance, is to be retained.

The Nato triad is a security concept based on a threefold combination of conventional, tactical and strategic nuclear forces. The three sides of the triangle are intended to function as a deterrent to a potential adversary.

If one side or prong fails to have the required deterrent effect, each in its turn or any permutation of the three are envisaged as providing a sufficient defence capacity.

There could hardly be a more abstract strategic concept. The conventional prong of the triad has never been particularly resilient, and never will be.

The European members of Nato are unlikely to equip more conventional divisions no matter how overwhelming Soviet supremacy in the conventional sector becomes, while the theory that the United States may transfer more conventional fighting power to this side of the Atlantic is no more than theory.

Even if the corps America is envisaged as airlifting across the Atlantic were ready for embarkation it would take at least four weeks for it to become operational.

What is more, Nato armed forces, despite their integrated supreme command, lack a uniform tactical approach. As for arms standardisation, it remains as distant a prospect as ever.

The economies of individual Nato member-countries rely on ordnance output to maintain employment at tolerable levels, while the Americans, who are the most vociferous in their calls for standardisation of arms and equipment, are most strongly opposed to the idea of an Atlantic tank.

They are right too. In the past, joint projects have invariably proved of poorer quality than equipment developed by individual countries.

This unsatisfactory state of affairs has long been strenuously denied, only to be conceded now with the banner headline admission that if Russian tanks started rolling they could overrun this country and reach the banks of the Rhine within 48 hours.

The United States is persuasively calling for swift and radical improvements in conventional arms and equipment and an increase in the number of operational units.

Why? Because it is in keeping with the American character to deal promptly with weak points as soon as they are recognised as such.

Yet root-and-branch changes are not envisaged. US bureaucracy is inflexible to the extent that strategic doctrines, once drawn up, are not jettisoned out of hand. So the current debate does not call into question the fundamental assumptions of the flexible response.

This means that we shall continue to have to live with strategic lies, since not even Nato's tactical nuclear capacity carries much conviction.

America is reluctant to escalate on even the lowest rungs of the ladder. Wherever possible, nuclear weapons are not to be used. Escalation is not a welcome word.

Yet if you are reluctant to use a weapon you can hardly expect it to prove particularly effective as a deterrent, and Nato still has no operational nuclear tactics. The chain of command from the political to the military leadership is too long.

In psychological terms no Nato country is prepared for such an uninviting prospect as tactical nuclear warfare. Preparation is a virtual impossibility anyway, since the contradiction between destruction and maintenance of peace, freedom or whatever defies reconciliation.

The nuclear deterrent only makes sense as a deterrent. As a weapon it is bound to boomerang.

The strategic nuclear prong of the Nato triad also has its shortcomings. The strategic arsenal is a weapon on which neither political nor military influence can be brought to bear.

According to Dr Kissinger the numerical balance or imbalance of terror is neither here nor there at this level of nuclear strategy. All that counts is whether both sides take a similar view of the dangers attached to pressing the button.

President Carter rates the risk highly. He intends to phase nuclear weapons out of the strategic debate. But there is a world of difference between the situation as the Carter administration would like to see it and the situation that really obtains in Europe.

As in the Kennedy era the West runs the risk of a nuclear debate in which views will clash head-on.

Psychological strategy is a key feature of overall strategy in the nuclear age. Deterrent and defence depend on a climate in which all concerned are prepared to act.

If America and its Nato allies get bogged down in a public debate on nuclear strategy the Soviet Union is less likely to fear a Western response of any kind.

As long as strategy remains a talking-shop the keynote of Western defence policy will remain what can only be termed a strategic interregnum.

The West is running the risk of being unable either to wield an effective deterrent or to put up an effective fight if hostilities were to begin.

Europe would then be beaten before the fighting had even started.

Adelbert Weinstein

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 8 February 1977)

No agreement over right of asylum for political refugees

With the failure of the UN conference on the right of asylum to reach agreement in Geneva on a uniform code for political refugees, the refugee's fate remains as uncertain as ever.

Ninety-six countries were represented at the conference but only half the ten clauses an international agreement would necessitate were drafted during a four-week period.

Agreement was reached on the major provisions, but the draft remains incomplete and cannot come into force. The conference adjourned without reaching agreement on a further session. A resumption before the end of this year certainly seems most improbable.

The Geneva failure was the result of five years of preliminaries and a compromise draft drawn up by experts from 27 countries. Failure was largely due to the irreconcilable claims of raison d'état and the rights of the individual.

While the West advocated priority for the right of the individual to seek political asylum, the East bloc insisted on priority for the government interest.

What the GDR delegate had to say on one aspect of the problem was characteristic of the views voiced by the entire East bloc: "The GDR cannot agree to motions aimed at detracting from the rights of sovereign states in favour of those of the individual."

Bonn took the diametrically opposite viewpoint at Geneva.

Ernst Burkart/dpa

(Kieler Nachrichten, 7 February 1977)

EEC States again fail to agree on fishing quotas and conservation

Common Market Foreign Ministers, meeting in Brussels, have again failed to reach agreement on a number of aspects of fisheries policy, namely quotas and conservation of fish stocks within the EEC's 200-mile territorial waters.

Since the New Year the extended territorial waters of the Nine have been deemed a Common Market economic zone, although by the terms of the law of the sea the individual member-countries of the European Community have merely jointly laid claim to their respective 200-mile zones.

Within each zone member-countries exercise sovereign right to maintain and exploit fish stocks "within the framework of the EEC's common fishery policy," as Bonn put it at the end of December 1976.

Boats from Common Market countries will be entitled to fish the joint waters in accordance with EEC law. Fishermen from other countries will be entitled to do so only by virtue of special permission or reciprocal agreement.

Special permission has been granted to ships flying the Soviet, Polish or GDR ensigns. The European Community is currently negotiating reciprocal agreements with Norway, the United States, Canada, Spain, Portugal, Finland and Sweden.

A cursory glance at the map of the North Sea and the north-eastern waters of the Atlantic should suffice to make it clear that Britain and Ireland must necessarily account for the lion's share of EEC waters.

The Common Market country that is most actively involved in fishing these waters is Denmark, which outcatches the other eight members of the Nine, accounting for 36 per cent of EEC fish tonnage netted, or 38 per cent of tonnage landed.

Britain, Ireland and Denmark were thus the three countries mainly at loggerheads in Brussels when it came to reconciling conflicting interests within the Common Market.

Trawlermen from this country net nearly two thirds of their catches off the shores of non-EEC countries, so Bonn is naturally keen to see favourable terms negotiated with the United States, Canada, Norway and Iceland in particular.

This, of course, would be to kill two birds with one stone. The larger the catch EEC fishermen are entitled to net in non-EEC waters, the less serious a problem quotas will prove nearer home.

Yet agreement must be reached on tonnage quotas and fishing techniques within the EEC, and the terms on which agreement is finally reached must be fair both to the men and women whose livelihood is at stake and to the countries whose territorial waters are involved.

There is nonetheless no need to overdramatise the failure of the latest talks. Whitehall and Dublin have resolved to resort to national measures, but promised not to discriminate against vessels from other Common Market countries.

Ireland, mind you, has banned from Irish waters cutters with an overall length in excess of 48 metres, or 159ft 6in. This is "non-discriminatory" only because Irish cutters do not exceed this length either.

The rub is, of course, that it is not worth while for vessels from this country to venture out into Irish waters for the modest catches that can be netted in such small boats. But a modus vivendi will no doubt be reached sooner or later.

This unfortunate dispute is problematic, but mainly inasmuch as it has repercussions on the fishing talks with other countries. The old law of the sea held good for more than 300 years, and its successor could be the cause of any amount of friction.

Until such time as the Nine themselves reach agreement they will hardly be in a position to negotiate terms with other countries.

Disregarding for a moment the gory details, the basic issue is that of the EEC's estimation of itself as a community, given the fact that the Nine find it

Continued on page 4

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Editor-in-Chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Henry P. Sanders. — Distribution Manager: Georgine von Platen. Advertising Manager: Peter Boeckmann.

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 23 Schoene Aussicht, Hamburg 76. Tel.: 2 26 51. Telex: 02 14733. Bonn bureau: 65 Adenauerallee, 53 Bonn. Tel.: 22 61 53. Telex: 08 86398.

Advertising rates list No. 12 — Annual subscription DM 35.

Printed by Krögers Buch- und Verlagsdruckerei, Hamburg-Blankenese. Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprint are published in cooperation with the editorial staffs of leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of Germany. They are complete translations of the original text, in no way abridged nor editorially redrafted. THE GERMAN TRIBUNE also publishes quarterly supplements featuring articles selected from German periodicals.

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POLITICS

Genscher reshuffles key diplomatic posts

Federal Foreign Affairs Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has something of a reputation for the skill with which he is able to solve human problems.

Years ago, in Bremen, Herr Genscher acted as solicitor for a man charged with jumping onto a moving tram and with not having any identity papers on him.

The man was acquitted after Herr Genscher pointed out that although by law every citizen must have identification papers, one is not necessarily required to have them with one at all times. He successfully argued that while it is prohibited to jump *on and off* trams when they are moving his client had only jumped *onto* the tram.

Today some of Herr Genscher's unexpected decisions in the Foreign Office are a reminder of this anecdote, although now it is party membership cards rather than ID cards that are important.

Since Free Democratic supporters and members are few and far between, Herr Genscher is constantly faced with the question of where of where, how and which Social Democrat or Christian Democrat diplomats should be assigned new posts.

Now a whole series of such moves is about to begin when the ambassador to the Vatican Alexander Böker retires in April. The ensuing reshuffle of posts is going to involve a number of moves of far-reaching consequence between London, Bonn and Tokyo.

In April state secretary Walter Gehlhoff (SPD) will move to the Vatican to take over from Herr Böker and Günter van Well, head of the political department in the Bonn Foreign Office will take over as state secretary.

Anyone curious to know whether Herr van Well merely has strong CDU sympathies or whether he is actually a party member — like the other state secretary promoted by Herr Genscher, Peter Hermes — is simply given the cryptic answer that it is sometimes very difficult to distinguish between a practising and a non-practising Roman Catholic.

Herr van Well is a lawyer and economic expert. He is 54, and has been working for the Foreign Office for 25 years.

During the terms of office of Willy Brandt (SPD) and Walter Scheel (FDP) as Foreign Minister he belonged to the so-called group of four, which is responsible for settling policies regarding Bonn, Berlin and East and West German relations together with the three Western powers.

In October last year he earned applause from the Christian Democratic and Christian Social parties and sharp criticism from Chancellor Helmut Schmidt (SPD) for an article in the periodical "Europe Archive" about Soviet attempts at harassing West Berlin.

Herr Genscher and Herr van Well tend more towards the Opposition in a number of foreign political fields than towards Herr Schmidt.

Though the SPD is losing the key position occupied by Herr Gehlhoff, the post is to be taken over by the head of Herr Genscher's "personal state secre- Blech. His position will be filled by undersecretary Klaus Kinkel, who is not a member of any political party. In the Foreign Office he has been known as Herr Genscher's "personal state secretary" for the past two years.

Up to now the SPD has also been able to influence developments in the Foreign Office through the head of the cultural despartment, Hans Arnold and head of personnel Wilhelm Hoppe.

But Herr Hoppe is due to retire shortly and Herr Arnold, son of the well-known caricaturist, Karl Arnold, will relieve ambassador Hermann Meyer-Lindenberg, who is also due to retire, in Rome in May this year.

Helmut Roth (SPD), former colonel in the Ministry of Defence, responsible for disarmament, is also due to retire. Friedrich Ruth (CDU), who was personal adviser to former Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger (CDU), will be taking Herr Roth's place.

Officials at the Foreign Office, who are politically strictly neutral, have said that Herr Genscher's decisions have not met with much approval at SPD headquarters. But in their opinion the SPD has no grounds for complaining that it has been robbed of its last strongholds in the Foreign Office.

The new ambassadors to Tokyo, Brussels and Moscow are to be Günter Diehl, Karl-Günter von Hase and Hans-Georg Wieck, respectively. The first two were CDU state secretaries and government spokesmen before being sent to the embassies in New Delhi and London.

Hans-Georg Wieck was head of the ministerial office of CDU politician Gerhard Schröder in both the Foreign Office and Ministry of Defence, and became head of planning staff there under Helmut Schmidt.

He was sent to Teheran as ambassador three years ago and is now to take over from Ulrich Sahm in Moscow. Having been close personal adviser to former Chancellor Willy Brandt and Egon Bahr (SPD) Sahm is now being posted to Ankara.

Each change necessarily sets off a chain reaction. But Ankara is involved in the changes because ambassador Gustav Adolf Sonnenhol is retiring. And Hans Hellmut Ruete will be heading for London to take over from Herr von Hase. He has now been ambassador to Warsaw for over four years. His former position will be taken over by Copenhagen ambassador Werner Ahrens.

This, in turn, is very convenient for Herr Genscher, since it enables him to send former FDP business manager Harald Hofmann (1973-76) to Copenhagen.

Former FDP chairman Walter Scheel had persuaded him to leave the Foreign Office and move to FDP headquarters. So for him the interruption of his career by party political work has finally been rewarded by promotion.

From the party political view point nothing will change in Tokyo when ambassador Wilhelm Grewe retires and is replaced by Günter Diehl.

Just as Herr Diehl formerly worked for Herr Kiesinger, Herr Grewe used to work under Konrad Adenauer and it was he — not Walter Hallstein — who originally came up with the so-called Hallstein doctrine that Bonn alone was responsible for all German affairs and the Federal Republic should break off diplomatic relations with any country which recognised East Germany as a separate state.

In Copenhagen Harald Hofmann (FDP) will take on the position occupied by Gerhard Ritzel from 1970 to 1974. Herr Ritzel (SPD), who formerly worked closely with Chancellor Brandt, is now ambassador to Prague and is due to take over in Teheran when Herr Wieck (CDU) moves to Moscow.

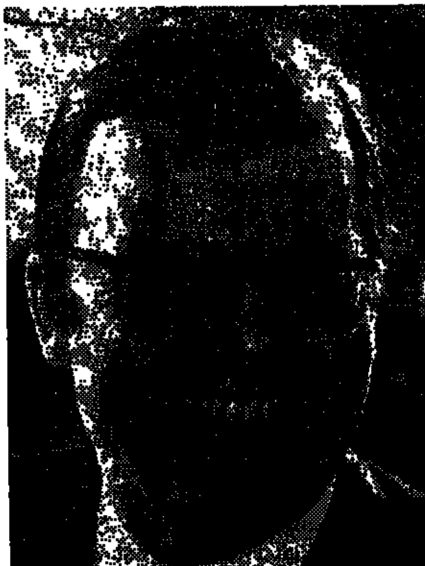
Prague is to be entrusted to Jürgen Diesel, Berne, who was on former Foreign Minister Brandt's planning staff. And the vacancy in Berne will be filled by Ulrich Lebsanft, permanent representative at the EEC in Brussels.

At least some of these diplomats don't belong to or sympathise strongly with any party. And Herr Genscher's decision can in no way be seen as a deliberate attempt to aggravate the SPD.

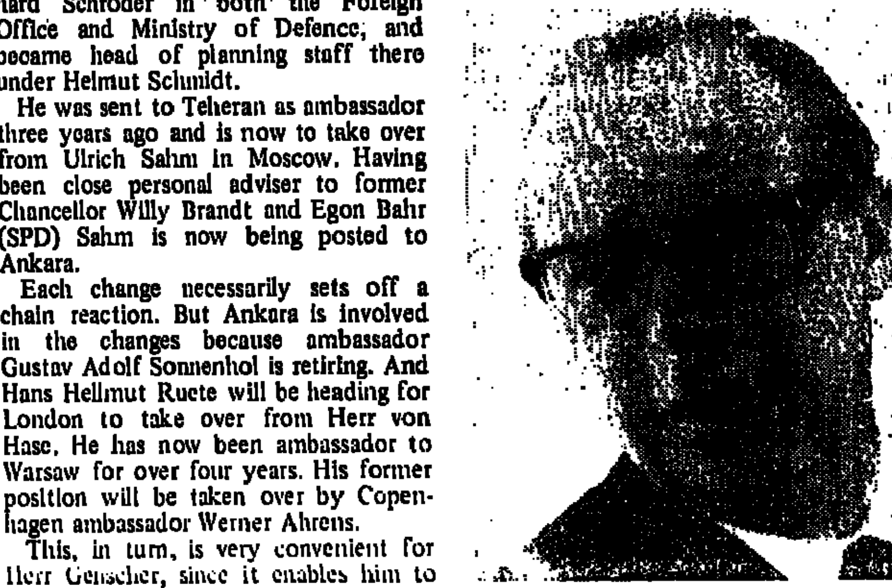
Officially, however, "For Herr Genscher party membership and sympathies are of secondary importance. His decisions have been made with a view to past achievements and ability — that is, according to criteria that others have forgotten."

Rudolf Strauch

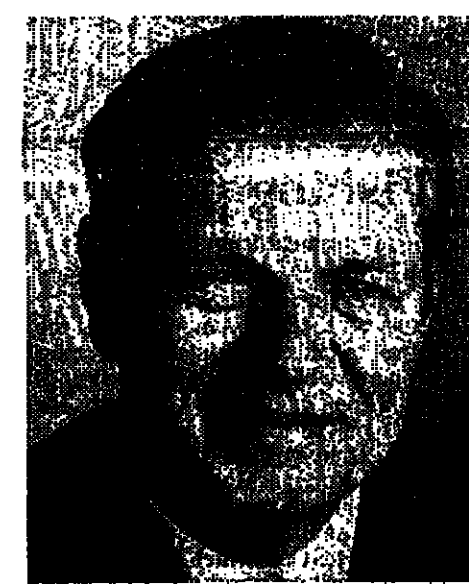
(Hannoversch Allgemeine, 9 February 1977)



Karl-Günther von Hase



Ulrich Sahm



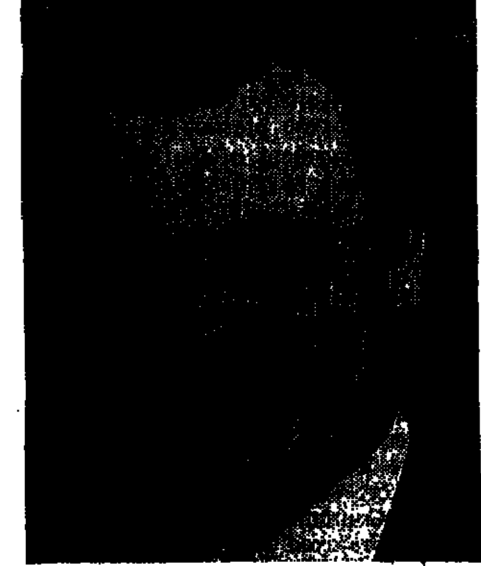
Walter Gehlhoff



Hans Hellmuth Ruete

Hans-Georg Wieck

Harald Hofmann



Hans Arnold

(Photos: Sven Simon 6/dpa)

■ PEOPLE

Ex-Chancellor Ludwig Erhard celebrates 80th birthday

Former Chancellor and father of the West German *Wirtschaftswunder* (this country's much-vaunted economic miracle) Ludwig Erhard turned eighty on 4 February.

Herr Erhard is today the Bundestag's oldest member. He was feted on his birthday by fellow party members of the CDU — a party in which he has never felt quite at home.

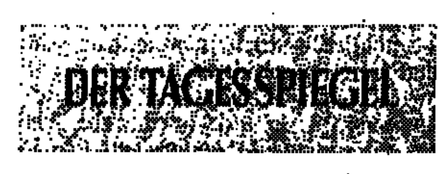
After the late Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, Erhard is probably the most popular personality of post-war West Germany. Ten years ago, the veteran politician adamantly refused to be feted on a grand scale.

His 70th birthday came only two months after he had yielded to pressure from his party and the then coalition partner in the Bonn Government, the Free Democrtatic Party, and resigned as Chancellor on 1 December 1966.

The day of his resignation also marked the end of a post-war era. The Grand Coalition, headed by Georg Kiesinger and Willy Brandt, was the transition period to today's SPD/FDP coalition which, in turn, is beginning to show cracks.

Critics have on occasion said that Erhard's greatest merit lay in the fact that he took no action at certain decisive moments, thus permitting market forces a free hand. There might be some truth in this contention, though it is by no means the whole truth.

After being badly wounded in the First World War, Erhard studied economics and became a follower of such eminent men as Walter Eucken, Wilhelm Röpke and Friedrich August von Hayek.



He managed to get through the Nazi era without making concessions to the regime. After the Second World War he was for a short time Bavaria's Minister of Economic Affairs. But in 1948/49, he was appointed Director for Economic Affairs of the "United Economic Regions of the Western Occupation Zones".

It was during that time that Ludwig Erhard arrived at the much-disputed political decision — a decision which startled both the Occupation Powers and the Germans — to abolish all economic controls after the currency reform.

By adopting Erhard's *Soziale Marktwirtschaft* (in essence, a market economy "with a social conscience") Adenauer identified himself and the Federal Republic's new democracy (in the face of resistance from his own CDU ranks) with an economic order which, as Minister of Economic Affairs, Erhard introduced and which has proven superior to all other "models" through the years.

The first fairly serious crises which arose after Adenauer, eroded Erhard's fame.

The successful and popular Minister of Economic Affairs considered himself the obvious successor to the aged Adenauer. But the latter had some doubts as to the foreign affairs aptitude of his "crown prince", and in 1959 he unsuccessfully tried to shunt him off to the office of President of the Federal Republic.

Eventually, however, Adenauer had to realise that he would be unable to instal a Chancellor who would suit him and whose name would not be Erhard.

By the time Erhard was finally elected Chancellor, on 16 October 1963, much of his authority within party ranks had been eroded notwithstanding the fact that he still triumphed as a vote-catcher for the CDU/CSU in the 1965 election campaign.

Certain foreign policy mistakes which seemed to confirm Adenauer's apprehensions, and failures in his efforts to ward off an economic crisis gave Erhard the political coup de grace.

His attempts to establish a basis of power as a "people's chancellor" with his concept of a "formed society" was also doomed to founder on the realities of our party set-up. Erhard had thus no choice but to give in to those who demanded his resignation.

What remained is Ludwig Erhard's meritorious work in rebuilding post-war



Ludwig Erhard
(Photo: Bundesbildstelle)

West Germany. But much of this was nullified by Adenauer's inability and unwillingness to make feasible arrangements for his succession in good time.

It must also not be overlooked that many of our instruments in the management of economic crises and the handling of *Ostpolitik* after 1966 date back to the era of Erhard's Chancellorship.

As a result, Erhard remains part of that continuity in our policy which has provided the Federal Republic with a relatively high degree of stability, not only due to his function as Minister of Economic Affairs but also due to his Chancellorship. And no criticism of certain details of Erhard's work can alter this fact.

Jürgen Schmädeke
(Der Tagesspiegel, 4 February 1977)

Fishing policy

Continued from page 2

difficult to reach agreement on many topics. Take, for instance, Portugal.

At the end of this month and the beginning of next Portuguese Premier Mario Soares will be touring the capitals of the Nine canvassing support for Portugal's bid to join the EEC now it is a democratically-governed country.

The EEC Foreign Ministers were anxious to formulate a common viewpoint at their recent Brussels meeting, but the compromise text on which they reached agreement was so scant that they preferred not to publish it.

The French and Italians are suspicious of any attempt to enlarge the Common Market in such a way that it might be said to merit the epithet "European."

Paris and Rome argue that economic problems are too pressing to permit of further enlargement of the EEC at this juncture, and they and the Benelux countries advise caution on this count.

Britain and this country, on the other hand, are all in favour of paving the way for Portuguese membership of the Common Market as a precursor of an association of Western democracies in Europe.

The details of accession naturally need discussion, both for Portugal and for Greece and Spain, but those who advocate a ban on new members fall little short of observers who feel the present Community is too large and ought to be axed to a hard core of less than half a dozen members.

Carl A. Ehrhardt
(Handelsblatt, 10 February 1977)

Joseph Cardinal Frings turns 90

Joseph Cardinal Frings former Archbishop of Cologne celebrated his 90th birthday on 6 February.

As a priest and head of a Caritas branch he cleverly arranged to distribute his packages in such a manner that everybody believed that he had received more than the next man, thus keeping them all happy.

Later, as an Archbishop, he donned a helmet and ran through burning Cologne after a bombing raid, trying to help the victims.

As a Cardinal he once almost lost face in Korea because his secretary had packed his suitcases and driven ahead to the airport, leaving the Cardinal without socks.

And in that country it was unheard of for a high dignitary to be seen thus "de-socked". Cardinal Frings later commented, "Though I would have lost face on my feet, it still amounts to a loss of face."

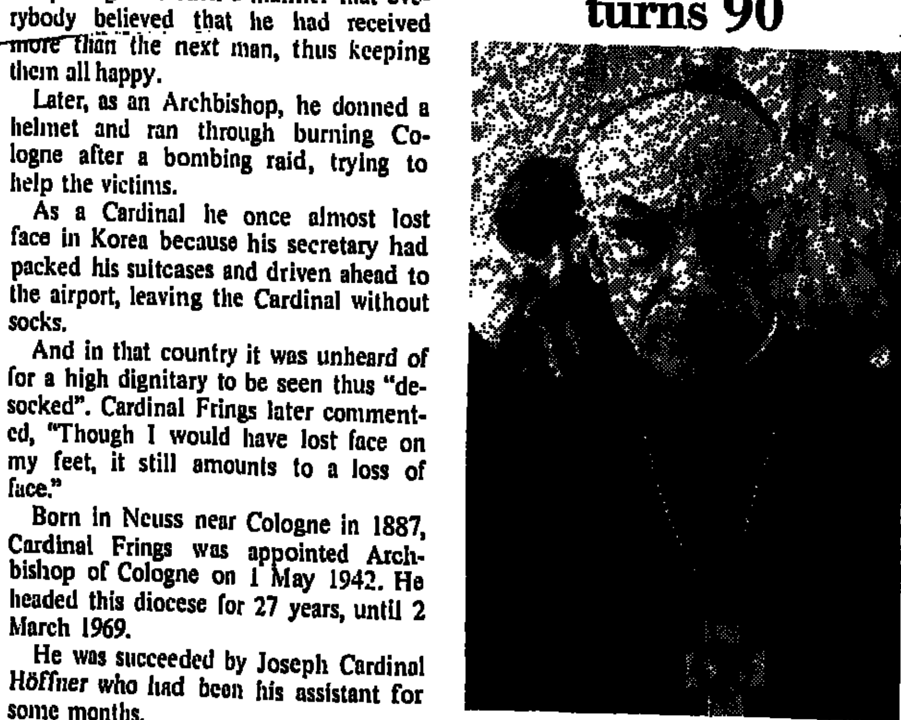
Born in Neuss near Cologne in 1887, Cardinal Frings was appointed Archbishop of Cologne on 1 May 1942. He headed this diocese for 27 years, until 2 March 1969.

He was succeeded by Joseph Cardinal Höffner who had been his assistant for some months.

Frings became a Cardinal together with Bishop Clemens August Graf von Galen in 1946.

Cardinal Frings' autobiography bears the title *Für die Menschen bestellt* (Ordained for the People) which is a translation of his coat-of-arms inscription *pro hominibus constitutus*, although he himself puts it more simply, saying "I am here for the people."

How true this is is borne out by a 1946 New Year's Eve sermon — a sermon held at a time when the nation, ravaged by war, was starving — in which Cardinal Frings said: "We live in a time



(Photo: Sven Simon)

which is marked by such want that the individual must be permitted to take what he needs for his life and his health if he cannot get it through work or through begging."

These words were an accusation addressed, among others, to the Occupation Forces which proved unable to secure an adequate supply of food for *the people*.

After the 1945 collapse of Germany the Cologne Archbishop was the only authority in Cologne whom everybody accepted as such.

Cardinal Frings was not only courageous in his confrontations with the victorious powers whom he admonished to remember that the vanquished, too, were entitled to human rights; he also opposed the theory of collective guilt. Cardinal Frings displayed the same courage in opposing the Nazi regime.

The Cardinal pointed out that the words on his coat-of-arms were meant to indicate that he considered himself called upon to protest against the rape of human rights during the Nazi regime.

This holds true even though Cardinal Frings, when asked to join the resistance movement around the Mayor of Leipzig, Carl Friedrich Goerdeler, replied that a Bishop had no right to get involved in political actions of this nature.

In any event, the American Frederic Spotts is wrong in claiming that Frings had been cautious during the Nazi era, for on 12 March 1944 Frings stated publicly, "No one who is innocent must be deprived of his life or his possessions because he belongs to another race. Doing this can only be termed a gross injustice."

Cardinal Frings — incidentally, a recognised authority on Shakespeare — has always been there for the *people*. And once the Germans were doing better again, his initiative extended beyond national frontiers. The charitable organisations *Misereor* and *Adveniat* originated in his diocese.

At the Second Vatican Council, Cardinal Frings fought adamantly and convincingly for the Council's independence. In the very first days of the meetings, in the autumn of 1963, the by then blind Cardinal became the spokesman of the reform-oriented wing of the Council.

The Council owes much of its positive results to the Cardinal from Cologne.

Gert Hanno
(Die Welt, 5 February 1977)

■ CRIME

Plan for Federal CID to get special 'major crime' squads

Amid growing concern about the state of internal security in this country politicians who have long been lambasting the Government for its laxness are gaining the upper hand.

One of these politicans is Alfred Dregger (CDU) whose criticism of those parts of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's recent government policy statement *which deal with internal security appears* to be substantiated by a spate of spectacular crimes in recent months.

- A 90-man special police squad still has no tangible clues in connection with the kidnapping for ransom of the millionaire's son Richard Oetker. Oetker was found severely injured after being jammed into a small crate and after the kidnappers had received a suitcase with 21 million deutschmarks ransom money in 1,000-mark notes.
- The showjumper Hendrik Snoek, who had also been kidnapped, was found accidentally in a small compartment under an autobahn bridge which had been used for the storage of explosives during construction. Two suspects were arrested in connection with this case.
- The most gruesome and senseless of these incidents was the murder of the Brunswick bank manager Wolfgang Kraemer, *his* wife and three children. In this instance the police have arrested a couple of suspects.

All this has kindled the flames of criticism levelled against the Bonn coalition partners by people who maintain that internal security is crumbling.

As Herr Dregger put it, "In 1923, a platoon of Bavarian *gendarmerie* (rural police) was able to stop Hitler's march to the *Feldherrnhalle* but of course the *gendarmerie* was properly armed. And Prussia maintained police units which were stationed in barracks and ready for action at a moment's notice."

Dregger went on to say that now, of all times, the Government was contemplating doing away with life imprisonment and restricting prison sentences to such an extent that hostage-taking becomes a calculable and limited risk for the perpetrators. "Wherever I look," said Herr Dregger, "I can see a disarmament of the executive arm of Government."

Such criticsm spurred Federal Minister of the Interior Werner Maihofer (FDP) to take action — and not just verbally either.

The Bundeskriminalamt, BKA (Federal Criminal Investigation Department) in Wiesbaden was assigned a new role which BKA President Horst Herold had been advocating for a long time.

Under the new plan the BKA will provide special squads which can best be termed work groups of experts which would either act off their own bat in particularly difficult cases or which can be summoned by the Federal states when needed.

Up to now, the BKA has been able to act only in cases of politically-motivated crimes (to this specific end it received a special department TE, standing for Terrorism, in 1975), *and major cases involving* money forgery, drugs and crimes affecting state security.

The experts of the new special squads can, according to Minister Maihofer's plans, also be stationed in metropolitan areas with heavy incidence of organised crime. Mr Maihofer sees in these special squads his own way of coping with the challenge of this new form of criminality in this country although he realises that he is legally overstepping his bounds, for which he accepts political responsibility. As Herr Maihofer put it, "If I am to put my head on the block it *must be to some purpose.*"

The BKA, which is now already dubbed the "Mecca of criminologists from all over the world", would thus assume the function of a central criminal investigation department along the lines of the American FBI, though without legally abolishing the decentralised Federation principle.

According to the newspaper *Bild am Sonntag* the new measures are certain to win wide-spread acclaim.

But it is a fallacy to think that the revamped BKA would be an exact counterpart of the FBI, though it might correspond to certain cliché ideas of the American agency.

Northrhine-Westphalia's Minister of the Interior Hirsch pointed out that "an American-ttype FBI is neither necessary nor politically feasible." And Werner Maihofer goes along with this view.

It is still too early to predict what will become of Maihofer's idea. His fellow party member Hirsch, who was elected chairman of the Interior Ministers' Conference in Berlin on 18 January, is wavering, while the CDU flatly rejects the idea and states with SPD governments show interest. Hamburg's Senator of the Interior would approve of a central command post "in some instances".

Hirsch's opposition hinges on the most delicate question involved, namely where to draw the line in re-assigning police work. In any event, Hirsch would under no circumstances want to assign murder or armed robbery to such a central agency, nor would he want to assign to it any crime of purely regional relevance. As a result, cases like the kidnapping of Snoek would remain exclusively under the jurisdiction of the state of Northrhine-Westphalia.

Maihofer, on the other hand, would like to see state doors as wide open as possible for his special squads. He argues that all crimes which shake the public's confidence in law and order must be considered a national event.



Federal Minister of the Interior Werner Maihofer, left, congratulates the president of the Federal Criminal Investigation Department Horst Herold after the latter had received the Beccaria Medal in gold from the German Society of Criminologists for his services in combating crime. In the centre is Professor Armand Mergen, president of the society.
(Photo: dpa)

Granted, Minister Maihofer's plans are in keeping with his political interests, but it remains to be seen whether or not they are objectively justified.

In the meantime, cooperation between the Federal Government and its agencies on the one hand and the states on the other functions reasonably well, notwithstanding certain complaints. The jungle of jurisdictions has become somewhat less impenetrable, but there *still remains a residue of parochialism.*

Thus, for instance, the police of one state is handicapped in pursuing a car across state borders because walkie-talkie and other telecommunications in the neighbouring state operate on a different frequency. And there are many more examples of a similar nature.

Despite all petty jealousies concerning jurisdiction, the BKA has developed into a mammoth organisation. It now has 2,424 staff members (this figure is expected to rise to 5,000) and an annual budget of 143 million deutschmarks.

BKA boss Herold, who has acquired a great deal of technical know-how, is generally lauded as "Mr Computer" and is well on his way to becoming a legendary figure.

Actively supported by Bonn, Herold has managed to establish what might best be termed a "balance of power" between criminals and the police.

The BKA's computer programme will eventually store the data of 15,000 major criminals, which will be cross-referenced with their *modus operandi.*

But Northrhine-Westphalia's criminal investigation department has progressed even further. Some patrol cars are equipped with mobile computer terminals with miniature screens, enabling them to obtain any desired information from the central computer.

State Minister of the Interior Hirsch maintains that even the special squads of the BKA can hardly be more efficient and more familiar with the *milieu* than Northrhine-Westphalia's police; and in any event the state police can at any time obtain data stored by BKA computers.

The formula which Hirsch would accept and which in many of its aspects coincides with Maihofer's ideas has much to recommend it. Hirsch maintains that the police should be able to operate on a supra-regional basis, in other words outside their own states, without having to obtain *legal* advice from a lawyer first.

In any event, Maihofer's idea is basically right and deserves a closer examination even though he is, as he put it, prepared to sacrifice a few "holy cows".

All this does not, however, mean that the aspect of individual rights in connection with the storing of personal data must not be subjected to careful and critical scrutiny.

Any discussion through which the function of the police could be redefined would have the advantage of being based on a host of experience and rational arguments. Not so where the discussion of the death penalty is concerned — a discussion which is raging at present.

A debate on the police function in general would be much more fruitful than discussing the deterrent effect of the death penalty. This would have to include a debate on the new police laws which aim to provide a new legal framework for the states while at the same time affecting basic civil liberties.

The constructive debate on the question whether our liberal law and order country does not already have too many police-state ingredients has begun.

Addressing objectors from within his own ranks, the liberal Hirsch argues that only a police force which functions and reacts to the new challenge can prevent the citizen from arming himself. Like Maihofer, Hirsch is convinced that the deterrent effect of a high quota of solved crimes remains the best weapon in combating crime.

Gunter Hofmann
(Die Zeit, 11 February 1977)

■ MACRO-ECONOMICS

Industry's order books continue to look healthy

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The state of the economy is better than the mood prevailing in business cricles.

This statement, which Minister of Economic Affairs Hans Friderichs made when presenting his annual report, seems to be borne out by recent developments.

Notwithstanding certain negative factors which must not be minimised, there are growing indications that last summer's upswing, which was halted temporarily, will continue.

Figures relating to the influx of orders in December indicate that the economy will continue its upward trend.

Orders in the capital goods sector are evidently gathering momentum. Though certain branches of industry such as the automobile industry as well as mechanical and electrical engineering are benefiting more from the present trend than others, the broad basis of recovery is widening and becoming more pronounced.

Even though orders were not coming in at such a lively pace in the previous months, they nevertheless sufficed to stimulate production noticeably. As a result there has been a marked improvement in the utilisation of production capacities in many sectors of the economy.

Following an excellent year, the order books in the automobile industry are so *full* at present that it can justifiably be anticipated that business results will again be above average — especially in the first half of the current year.

Following the nadir of employment in the automobile industry in June 1975, its labour force noew shows a marked increase. Volkswagen for instance employed 9,300 new workers in 1976 and is likely to employ another 3,000 this year.

The situation in the mechanical engineering sector, the most important branch of industry where capital goods are concerned, has also improved. Following some spectacular orders in the summer months of 1976, orders in December showed an increase of 12 per cent over the previous month and a whacking 14 per cent over December 1975 (in real terms).

This country's largest mechanical engineering concern, the Gutehoffnungshütte Group, received close to 20 per cent more orders in the first six months of the current business year, and turnover rose by 25 per cent over the previous year.

After a noticeable recovery last year, West Germany's chemicals industry once more managed to achieve the turnover of 1974, which was considered a good year. Taking into account the lively influx of orders, turnover in the current business year is expected to rise by between seven and eight per cent in real terms.

The industry's domestic investments are expected to be similar to those of previous years, reaching between 5,000 and 6,000 million deutschmarks. But since production capacities are not yet fully utilised, these investments will be concentrated primarily on replacements and streamlining.

While viewing the present situation as satisfactory by and large, business is somewhat reticent and in some instances pessimistic where forecasts for the future are concerned.

This is not so much due to the state of the economy as a whole, but primarily to recent wage deals and uncertainty as to the future development of labour costs.

Despite our markedly diminished inflation rate, trade unions have stepped up their demands for wage increases to about 10 per cent. And indeed the first wage deals concluded this year in the steel and metal industry are only slightly below that figure if fringe benefits are taken into account.

It is obvious that such wage deals exceed the economy's tolerance limits. The iron and steel industry, in which only two thirds of production capacities are utilised and where one in six workers had to be put on short-shift work, will be particularly hard hit by such wage increases.

After a year of relative restraint on the part of the trade unions, the wage merry-go-round is gathering momentum once more.

In the period from 1970 to 1975, average wages and salaries rose four times as much as the economy's productivity. According to the *Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft* (Institute of German Economy), the Federal Republic had the highest labour costs of the six most important export nations.

In view of these facts and taking into accunt that production capacities are not yet fully utilised, it is not surprising that business is still hesitant to invest.

Though production has increased again, unemployment figures have risen seasonally to close to 1.3 million, and this is clearly a factor which hampers our present economic recovery.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 February 1977)

Economic Horoscope for the Federal Republic

	1973	1974	1975	1976	Tendency 1977	
Jobless in thousands	273	582	1074	1060	900	A slight improvement
Prices Percentage rise	+6.9	+7.0	+6.0	+4.5	+4	More stable
Economic growth per cent	+5.1	+0.6	−3.2	+5.5	+4.5	Slower trend
Wages per worker percentage rise	+12.0	+11.4	+7.0	+7.5	+7.5	No change
Profits and returns Percentage rise	+7.9	+1.9	+3.8	+14.5	+10	A drop

Trade fair boom points to recovery

Hamburger Abendblatt

There are trade fairs as far as the eye can see in the Federal Republic. The various branches of industry have begun the year by presenting new products and providing a basis for future sales.

They are making a concerted effort to overcome the recession and, judging by their mood and the excellent attendance at the fairs, it seems evident that things are shaping up again.

Berlin's "Green Week" Agricultural Show was attended by more than half a million people and has just ended.

In their closing report, the fair organisers said that the show was a resounding success. The growing importance of the Green Week *is* demonstrated not only by the record number of visitors, but also by the fact that half the 953 exhibitors reported a greater turnover than in the previous year.

Essen's *Deubau* building industry fair was attended by more than 140,000 people, which is 40 per cent more than two years ago. Despite the generally stagnating construction business, 91 per cent of the exhibitors were satisfied with their turnover.

Cologne is hosting three fairs at once, namely *Domotechnika, Internationale Hausratsmesse* (International Household Appliances Fair) and *Internationale Eisenwarenmesse* (International Hardware Fair). A total of 2,400 exhibitors are putting their latest household appliances, electrical appliances and hardware on show. Spokesmen for retailers said that they would accept maximum price increases of three per cent.

Nuremberg is playing host to the 28th International Toy Fair. The fair is only open to the trade, and children will have to wait until the fascinating objects on show there reach the shelves of the retail trade. There were only scattered price increases ranging from four to five per cent.

Caravan und Boot (Caravan and Boat) opened in Munich with 573 exhibitors competing for business. The first two days showed a bumper crop of visitors.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 7 February 1977)

Bundesbank confident that there will not be a new recession

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

The Bundesbank (this country's Central Bank) is confident that there is no new world recession around the corner.

This optimism concerning the economy is substantiated by the latest figures on the order books of West Germany's industry which show a gratifying emphasis on domestic demand. The production level, too, has increased markedly, thus making a five per cent rise in the real GNP a realistic assumption.

The Federal Republic is once more ahead of the United States where economic recovery is concerned. According to Bundesbank executives, 1977 could once more bring about a normal utilisation of production capacities.

In a press interview given in Frankfurt, members of the Bundesbank Council said that our foreign trade surplus was gradually diminishing. This development, they said, was accelerated by the fact that this year, too, imports will rise at a greater rate than exports.

The Bundesbank anticipates that imports will increase twice as much as domestic demand. Thus for instance this country's imports between 1974 and 1976 rose by 26 per cent compared with 14 per cent in the United States and no increase at all in Japan. This increase in imports is a considerable help for the economies of our foreign trading partners.

The Bundesbank puts little stock by the Federal Government's booster programme for the economy, involving some ten to twelve thousand million deutschmarks — especially not as a short-range measure. But in three to four years the programme could bring about structural improvements.

The Bundesbank sees no reason why Government deficits should increase. Compared with the GNP, this country's deficit is in any event greater than those of the United States, Japan or France. It is therefore understandable that both the Bundesbank and Bonn are somewhat reticient with regard to new booster shots for the economy.

The Bundesbank intends to pursue a restrained credit policy in 1977, with an increase in the money supply of eight per cent.

The Bundesbank's top executives consider a further reduction of the prime lending rate not quite out of the question, though no major changes are anticipated in the Central Bank's credit policy.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 5 February 1977)



■ INDUSTRY

Walter Cipa, new AEG chief, launches PR campaign to brighten firm's image

Walter Cipa, the new man at the helm of AEG (this country's second-largest electrical concern), has embarked on a massive PR campaign to improve his company's somewhat battered image.

With a mixture of losses, millions of deutschmarks worth of credits and troubles in the personnel sector, the electrical giant has for the past five years been engaged in a tightrope act in its struggle to survive.

By 1974 AEG stock quotations had dropped from their former DM280.00 to the nominal value of DM50.00. The company was clearly in trouble.

AEG's age-old advertising slogan *Aus Erfahrung Gut* (Good Through Experience) certainly does not apply to the company's stockholders whose experience latterly has been anything but good. Not only did the bottom drop out of AEG stock, but dividends, too, failed to materialise.

It was not until the second half of 1976 that, after many years without profit, the fallen giant began to get back on its feet, gradually struggling its way out of the red. In the process, however, the huge concern had shrunk and lost much of its lustre.

Only a decade ago, AEG was still one of a dozen Western multis who sliced up the international business cake among themselves.

By the mid-seventies, however, AEG had become so weakened that only the other German multi in this branch of industry could still save it. The Munich-based Siemens AG paid 800 million deutschmarks (so to speak out of petty cash) to AEG in order to secure sole ownership of their formerly joint subsidiaries Osram and Kraftwerke Union (KWU).

For AEG these 800 million deutschmarks came in the nick of time. By then the company had shrunk to such an extent that it no longer numbered among the world's major electrical concerns in international business.

AEG boss Cipa, formerly chairman of the board of Gelsenberg AG, has so far had his hands full coping with AEG's legacy from the past. Apart from the Siemens millions, his task was facilitated by the Dresdner Bank.

Jürgen Ponto, who had become board chairman of Dresdner Bank during AEG's most critical phase, immediately initiated emergency measures. The first of these was a three-year moratorium on debts between AEG and 25 banks to whom the company owed money.

Having thus provided a safety net for the company, Ponto toppled some of the tightrope artists on AEG's board of directors – many of whom fell with a thump.

One of the company's major bugbears was the inefficiency of its management. Bankers familiar with AEG's problems had long realised that AEG's top executives were no better than the middle echelon of the competitor Siemens.

Moreover, AEG's board of directors had devised a sophisticated system of self-protection whereby every chairman of the board of directors who retired took over the chairmanship of the supervisory board, installing one of his own men as his successor.

In this way every AEG boss was able to perpetuate his mistakes due to his position on the supervisory board. In the long run this could only have a cumulative effect.

When Jürgen Ponto installed Walter Cipa as chairman of the board, both the banker and Cipa had to overcome the problems arising from the fact that AEG had wantonly bought a whole army of companies while at the same time lagging behind in the technology sector.

Instead of concentrating on modern technology, the company's executives chose the easy way of manufacturing household appliances which require little sophisticated technical know-how.

And initially all went well in the wake of a consumer run on such appliances. Today, however, in a phase of recession and stagnation, AEG finds itself with a dangerously exposed flank as a result of such a policy. As Cipa recently put it, "More than half of our business is greatly dependent on consumer attitudes."

In all those sectors where AEG ventured into sophisticated technology the company suffered severe setbacks. Thus for instance its bid for the computer business proved a costly fiasco as did the nuclear power stations developed by the company which were so prone to breakdowns (as in the case of the Würgassen station) that they caused AEG millions worth of losses.

When AEG relinquished its 50 per cent stake in KWU to Siemens, Cipa errived at the painful realisation that his company's nuclear energy venture had caused it losses to the tune of some 1,500 million deutschmarks.

Once the worst of the problems have been overcome and if no additional losses occur, Cipa wants to embark on a medium-range restructuring programme.

According to the chairman, the household appliance and electronic entertainment business will not be expanded. The heating and air-conditioning business is also considered uninteresting by Cipa.

On the other hand, Walter Cipa puts some stock by the energy and industrial technology as well as the telecommunications business.

The colour TV business (AEG-Telefunken developed the successful Pal system) will still receive a great deal of attention — especially where AEG's Italian subsidiary Fabricca Italiana Radio Televisori is concerned.

But this company, which has been in the red for a long time, will have to be put back on its feet by massive financial injections.

Stock exchange quotations make it obvious that stockholders stand little if any chance of getting any dividents in the foreseeable future. Though AEG stock has risen to DM80.00 it is nevertheless very weak.

Granted, Cipa's predecessor, Hans Groebe, announced that there was every likelihood that dividends would be paid in 1977. But even so, it is unlikely that any dividends will be forthcoming before Walter Cipa has been able to assess the effects of his restructuring measures which include the closing down of the AEG plant in Berlin's Ackerstrasse, the company's first factory.

Ernst Willenbrock

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 6 February 1977)

Exports rose by six per cent during recession, says Siemens chairman

According to Dr Bernhard Plettner, chairman of the board of Munich's Siemens AG, his company came through the recent recession relatively unscathed, an even had an increase in exports of six per cent.

The company's global turnover for the business year 1975/76 (which ended on 30 September) has risen by six per cent to DM20,700 million. As Dr Plettner put it, however, "Considering necessary price increases, the volume of production has risen only minimally.

"The dependence on exports, which had been viewed with scepticism, had proved a stabilising element," he added.

Dr Plettner attributes the high proportion of export business primarily to "a certain investment apathy in the Federal Republic." This, he says, is demonstrated primarily by incoming orders. While domestic orders dropped by four per cent to DM10,400 million, foreign orders increased by six per cent to DM11,500 million.

Due to an accumulation of major contracts, above all from abroad, orders in the first quarter of the current business year rose startlingly by about 30 per cent to DM6,600 million.

But Dr Plettner pointed out that "the execution of such major orders takes several years and can therefore not have an immediate effect on the employment situation in the various plants."

Notwithstanding this favourable development in the first quarter of the new business year, Dr Plettner anticipates that the influx of orders for the business year 1976/77 will show only a slight increase or perhaps none at all in real terms.

But he also pointed out that this was no reason for concern since "experience shows that production capacity increases resulting from stremalining are usually greater than those due to the market."

Dr Plettner went on to say that management must devote more and more attention to keeping the ratio between production costs and profits balanced even when turnover was stagnant or indeed diminishing. He pointed out that Siemens had succeeded in achieving this in the business year 1975/76.

With profits having risen from DM458 million to DM606 million, Siemens achieved a 2.9 per cent yield on turnover (compared with 2.4 per cent in the previous year).

According to Dr Plettner, one of the main reasons for these improved results is the slowdown in business and the diminishing share of sales from existing stock resulting from it.

Moreover, by investing liquid funds the negative balance of interest payments (DM55 million) turned into a positive one of DM45 million.

To improve matters still further, pension reserves diminished and data processing proved beneficial.

DM255 million of overall profits have been set aside for dividends which last year again amounted to DM8. per DM50. share, the total dividend-bearing capital being DM1,600 million. Reserves were replenished by DM314 million (169).

Dr Plettner anticipates that the moderate upward trend will continue. Domestic business is picking up, but it remains to be seen whether the same will apply to exports. The chairman expressed concern about rising personnel costs which might have an adverse effect on the company's competitiveness. "Production costs in the current business year," he said, "will increase considerably over the business year 1975/76."

Dr Plettner likened his own position to that of a man on a balance beam with a variable width. As soon as costs rise, he said, the beam becomes narrower and as soon as they diminish it widens again.

Though encouraged by the great number of orders from abroad — especially towards the end of 1976 — Dr Plettner is by no means in a state of euphoria. Says he: "There is little likelihood that this streak of success will continue indefinitely. The labour market on a national scale as well as at Siemens will only improve if the export business improves markedly. Thus our employment problems are largely linked with the state of the economy as a whole."

In the data processing business, for instance, there were 11,000 newly-created jobs and this in turn made it possible to create another 25,000 to 30,000 jobs in the electronics sector as well. Dr Plettner is convinced that the electronic data processing sector has a cumulative effect on employment.

But until international business picks up properly short-shift work will remain a necessity (this affected 20,000 Siemens workers in the last business year). Siemens' domestic operations had to continue reducing staff at an average rate of 10 per cent to 208,000. But now, with the inclusion of Osram as part of the Siemens empire, global staff rose from 296,000 to 304,000. Even so, in the first quarter of the current year the number of Siemens staff members dropped by 1.6 per cent.

Like this branch of industry as a whole, Siemens, too, is confronted with the problem that it is becoming ever more difficult to equalise increased production costs by price increases.

Dr Plettner therefore anticipates that profits in the current business year will not correspond to the increase in turnover.

"Even in the first quarter of this business year, rising costs had diminished the yield on turnover to 2.5 per cent (2.8). But Dr Plettner is convinced that he will succeed in retaining a two before the decimal point.

Axel Schneider

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 4 February 1977)

■ ROAD SAFETY

Children's road safety awareness tests rapped as unrealistic

Seldom has a survey created such a furore as Munich paediatrician Theodor Hellbrügge's study of children's behaviour in traffic. "Children," he concluded, "have no sense of danger."

He put a mother and child in the back seat of a car, had the car driven through city traffic and noted that the child's pulse did not register the slightest change in even the diciest situations.

But surely this is jumping to a false conclusion. Let us assume that a back-seat adult passenger who does not hold a driving licence fails to respond emotionally to a dangerous traffic situation.

Woud you then conclude that the same person is going to prove similarly unresponsive when faced by the same danger as a pedestrian? Of course not. So why is it assumed that children will?

Another unfounded assumption has gained currency as the result of work published by a traffic psychologist by the name of Hartwig. Noting that children are generally involved in traffic accidents within a radius of one kilometre of the family home, he assumed that they felt at home in heir own part of town and tended to be more "aggressive" there.

The fact is surely that children are seldom allowed to roam more than a kilometre away from home unaccompanied, so if they are involved in traffic accidents it is almost bound to be within this radius.

Feeling at home or aggressive has nothing to do with the case, yet these allegations are unfortunately taken as scientific proof that children have no sense of danger in traffic and provide convenient pretexts for transport policy decisions and legal rulings.

It is now taken as read that where children are involved they will have been to blame for accidents and that road safety instructions for children must be given absolute priority.

Other measures designed to afford greater protection to junior road-users have been neglected and questions that



might well have been asked have been disregarded. Road research scientists have sunk their teeth into children's behaviour in traffic and done so with a vengeance.

Take, for instance, two recent surveys commissioned by the Federal Road Research Institute, Cologne, which is a government agency under the jurisdiction of the Bonn Ministry of Transport.

The survey are entitled "Dimensions of the Child's Traffic World" and "The Influence of Being In the Know on Children's Behaviour in Traffic."

They both aim to provide pointers for future research and to draw conclusions for road safety campaigns. Neither objective is likely to be achieved by either.

The largest single group of children involved in traffic accidents are the children of foreign workers. These children are excluded from the surveys' terms of reference.

What is more, other road-users are to blame in four out of ten cases in which child cyclists are involved in accidents. So if these two categories are disregarded, what is left?

"Dimensions of the Child's Traffic World" claims to "cover dimensions of child experience and behaviour that are relevant to traffic and to demonstrate their relationship to how children actually behave in traffic."

Children were required, for instance, to cross a busy street to their mothers on the other side of the road. They were not told it was a test or that a car was ready and waiting to cross their path.

The survey claimed that this was requiring children to cross the road in a normal way and a natural situation. This is not strictly true. Mothers are seldom waiting on the other side of the road. Besides, between 75 and 80 per cent of children are unaccompanied when accidents happen.

Another similarly unrealistic test was designed to ascertain the extent to which children can visualise the motorist's field of vision. The test used a tabletop model road and a simulated traffic situation.

A child was placed on a zebra crossing in such a way that it could not see an oncoming car. In another situation a heavy goods vehicle was between the child and a car in the process of overtaking the lorry, so that the car-driver could not, of course, see the child crossing the road.

It was assumed that if a child was able to judge the situation accurately on a table top with toy cars he would be able to figure out what the driver of a car overtaking a goods vehicle in real traffic might or not the thinking.

This too is surely jumping the gun. In a model the children can see everything that is going on. In traffic they cannot, which is why they need to behave differently in real life from the way they might choose to do when pushing toys around a table top.

A child who cannot see behind an enormous lorry can hardly be expected to anticipate the reaction of a car-driver who is in the process of overtaking the lorry when he, the child, has no idea the car is there.

Might it not have made more sense to run a series of tests on a road with an overtaking ban in advance of a pedestrian crossing and to find out whether motorists ever stop and think how far *children can see?*

Four- to nine-year-old children were then set to work on a traffic model moving toy-sized pedestrians across a two-lane road. Cars were travelling up and down the road at varying speeds.

The number of times the children managed to get their pedestrians across the road was noted, as were the number of errors they made in the process.

The conclusion reached was that older children proved more successful than tiny tots and that the pulse rate of neither category changed much one way or the other.

So none of the children showed the slightest anxiety, but why should they? It was, after all, only a game and hardly dangerous by any criterion.

Real traffic is a different matter altogether as far as children are concerned. It is another dimension, but this fact was neatly overlooked.

Yet the title, and the entire tenor, of the survey would seem to indicate that because children show no signs of anxiety when pushing toy pedestrians across a table top they are not going to worry at all when they themselves are the road-users in question.

Are their pulses going to remain steady as they negotiate busy roads, weaving in and out of juggernaut lorries' and other moving objects that tower above them? Probably, let's face it, not.

The second survey, entitled "The Influence of Being in the Know on Children's Behaviour in Traffic," indicates in its involved title the line of argument that is adopted. The aim is obviously to drill children to suit the needs of the motor-car.

Does the form road safety training currently takes influence the degree to which children are aware of the dangers they face on the road and sufficiently induce them to adopt suitable behaviour patterns.?

Accident statistics are quoted, accepting without further question the loaded categories that are generally used, and Hartwig and Hellbrügge are quoted as authorities.

Last but not least, parents were questioned. If the parents really said what they are represented as having said (and statisticians did not merely standardise their replies), one can but say "Heaven help the poor children!"

Children were categorised as careless and given to unpremeditated actions. No one seems to have even considered the possibility that children might be helpless or unsure of themselves. As for shortage of places where they can play, never a mention is made of the idea.

No one seems to be critical of transport policies or of other road-users either. So the poor children are left in the lurch even by their own parents, who might be expected to put in a word or two on their behalf in view of the fact that car-drivers get the better of most arguments.

Mind you, the questions were put merely to the parents of children in three school classes and the questionnaire is in no way claimed to be representative.

The parents were all in favour of "more active" teaching methods, whereas teachers wondered just what was expected to them. The long and the short of it is that adults are at a loss what to do other than laying the blame at the children's door.

After these preliminaries the authors of the report go on to *develop* tests of their own, to outline educational objectives and indicate ways and means of getting the message across to the children.

Initially children in all three classes were tested on their knowledge of the highway code. Then one class was subdivided into two groups who were taught using one of two new sets of methods, the other two classes carrying on as before.

The main difference was that the experimental class took some of its lessons outdoors, training kerb drill at real intersections. But children were not required to cross the road when obstacles obstructed their vision.

This exception was considered essential because of the risk. True enough, since most accidents occur in situations of this kind. But is it fair not to train children for situations in which they will come up against real danger?

Then all three classes were shown a traffic film in which nine dangerous situations occurred. Medical tests were undertaken to ascertain their responses.

The conclusions [illegible] no differe[illegible] sponses of children in all three classes.

Continued on page 11

The surveys referred to were published in a series entitled "Accident and Safety Research in Road Traffic." The issue numbered 4/76 includes, under the heading "Experience and Behaviour of Children in Road Traffic," studies entitled "Dimensions of the Child's Traffic World" compiled by R. Günther and M. Limbourg and "The Influence of Being in the Know on Children's Behaviour in Traffic" compiled by H. Ch. Heinrich and I. Langosch. Both are published by the Federal Road Research Institute, Cologne, on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Transport.

■ THE ARTS

'Pauper' Mozart always earned a lot of money, says researcher

The legend that Mozart was a pauper has been exploded.

During his lifetime Mozart was anything but a low earner. It is true, however, that on his death in 1791 at the age of 35 he had debts to the tune of 3,000 guilders — the equivalent of DM80,000 in buying power.

His biographers usually convey the image of a musical genius who lived in abject poverty. But so far virtually none of them has taken the trouble to examine the reasons for his alleged poverty.

Uwe Kraemer, Hamburg, believes he has lifted the veil of secrecy surrounding Mozart's finance. In the magazine *Musica* the author arrives at the conclusion that "Mozart was in all likelihood the only one to blame for his disastrous financial position."

In an effort to reconstruct the roots of Mozart's "poverty", Kraemer made a minute check of revenues and expenditures in the composer's household, arriving at the following conclusion:

Even during his last years, Mozart's earnings were above average. Following his move to Vienna in 1781, he soon gained access to the highest circles of aristocracy — both of blood and money.

For an hour's piano lessons he charged ten times as much as had his father, Leopold. Thus, for instance, Mozart's annual income from three of his pubpils amounted to 800 guilders (DM21,000).

It might be interesting to compare this with the incomes of, say, the chief surgeon at a Vienna hospital who earned 1,200 guilders per annum or a regular doctor with an annual income of 800 guilders. A musician in the employ of Prince Esterhazy earned 200 guilders, and Johann Michael Haydn, who held the post of organist, had an annual income of 50 guilders while Mozart's maid earned 12 guilders (DM312).

It must be borne in mind, however, that Mozart's earnings from piano lessons were only pocket money compared with his earnings from compositions and concerts.

A single concert (after deduction of all expenses) earned him about 500 guilders (DM13,000), and performances before generals, dukes and princes brought him about 200 guilders.

Accroding to Kraemer, Mozart's performances alone earned him about 10,000 guilders (DM260,000) per annum in the period from 1783 to 1786. This was supplemented by revenues derived from leotures and compositions.

Even when his popularity waned after 1788, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart still earned considerable sums of money. In 1787 he inherited 1,000 guilders (DM26,000) from his father, and a single concert in Prague also earned him 1,000 guilders.

In the same year the Prague performance of *Don Giovanni* yielded 450 guilders (DM11,700) and the first performance of this opera in Vienna earned him antoher 223 guilders (about DM6,000).

Kraemer added up Mozart's total revenues in 1787, arriving at 2,675 guilders (DM70,000), which was three times the salary of a doctor at a Vienna hospital.

Even so Mozart was forced to take up cheaper quarters in a Vienna suburb in 1787. In 1789, the composer earned 2,000 guilders (DM52,000) — not including his piano lessons.

In 1791, the year of his death, Mozart's income still added up to 1,900 guilders (about DM49,000) — not including royalties for his *Magic Flute*.

But even an annual income which was very considerably above the average could not prevent the insolvency of the most celebrated musician of that era. Under the circumstances it was only natural for Kraemer to ask himself, "Where did the money go?"

Kreamer considers it impossible that Mozart could have used the money primarily in order to satisfy basic needs. Even medical bills and his wife's numerous stays in spas could not account for Mozart's financial position; nor could his penchant for extravagant clothing, luxurious housing, expensive watches etc.

With regard to Mozart's expenditures, Professor Joseph Heinz Eibl arrives at conclusions which are at odds with those of Kraemer — also in an article published in *Musica*.

Basing his contention on various letters, Professor Eibl believes that Mozart's day-to-day cost-of-living was very considerable and that the expenses for his wife's stays in spas were by no means "minor". The same applies to Mozart's extended trips to Prague, Berlin and Frankfurt/Main, which he mostly undertook in company.

Kraemer believes that he has found the answer to the question why Mozart was broke. The composer was a gambler who lost considerable sums of money in card and billiard games. Thus for instance, Haydn's pupil Franz von Destouches, a contemporary of Mozart, wrote in a letter: "Mozart was a passionate and at the same time bad billiard player... He played the whole night, staking high sums of money... He was very careless, but his wife showed tolerance."

The "affairs" and "misfortunes" mentioned in Mozart's letters were nothing but euphemisms for gambling debts, says Kraemer.

Professor Eibl, on the other hand, believes that such euphemisms for gambling debts fail to explain adequately what became of Mozart's high income.

Kraemer believes that his thesis also provides an explanation for Mozart's waning popularity in the last years of his life. It is unlikely, Kraemer maintains, that his loss of popularity was due to a change in the musical taste of the Viennese public.

It was not the public at large but Vienna's high society, on whom Mozart depended, who gradually declared him persona non grata — not because these circles no longer enjoyed his music, but "because they have tired of supporting the hopelessly indebted composer with ever new loans which they knew would never be repaid."

Robert Lutz

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 5 February 1977)

Teachers' literature recommendations boost book sales

This country's teachers of German who have been the butt of criticism from many quarters have also been instrumental in boosting book sales.

Some critics claim that not enough attention is paid to literature in teaching German, and reform-happy Ministers of Education maintain that, if literature is to be taught at all, it must be literature of social relevance. In fact, whatever German teachers do, they can never please everybody.

Only the book trade has absolutely no complaints against these teachers for they enjoy an excellent reputation as sales boosters. Regardless of which author they recommend for the classroom the book trade must profit.

All this is an unexpected and unaccustomed, though commercially motivated, accolade for our German teachers.

Georg Lingenbrink, one of the Federal Republic's major book dealers, has recently provided proof of the German teachers' beneficial effects on book sales by his list of best-selling paperbacks in 1976.

As opposed to hard-cover books, where encyclopaedias, technical text books and cookbooks, range among the best-sellers, paper-backs have the greatest turnover in works of literature. The list of best-sellers in that sector is headed Heinrich Böll's *Die verlorene Ehre der Katharina Blum* (The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum), followed by the GDR author Ulrich Plenzdorf's *Die neuen Leiden des jungen W.* (The Judge and his Executioner) by Friedrich Dürrenmatt, followed by Bert Brecht's *Mutter Courage* (Mother Courage). Place six is taken up by a world history atlas, followed by Max Frisch's *Andorra*, Schiller's *Wilhelm Tell*, Brecht's *Der gute Mensch von Sezuan* (The Good Person of Sezuan) and *Die Judenbuche* (Jews' Beech) by Annette von Droste-Hüllshoff.

Die Judenbuche, Der gute Mensch von Sezuan, Wilhelm Tell, Andorra, Mutter Courage, Der Richter und sein Henker and *Die verlorene Ehre der Katharina Blum* are all required reading at school.

Moreover, many titles which only the parents of our schoolchildren still remember — although they are unlikely to keep them on their bedside tables — are included in the list of required reading and achieve considerable sales.

Among them are Gerhard Hauptmann's *Bahnwärter Thiel* (Railroad Staation Attendant Thiel) in place 13, Gottfried Keller's *Kleider machen Leute* (Clothes Make the Man) in place 11, Friedrich Schiller's *Kabale und Liebe* (Cabals and Love) together with his *Die Räuber* (The Highwaymen) and *Maria Stuart* which occupy places 19 to 21, followed by Goethe's *Goetz von Berlichingen*.

Place 18 is still occupied by Theodor Storm's *Schimmelreiter* (Rider on a White Horse) and his *Pole Poppenspäler* is evidently also still popular required reading in schools, being in place 41. In fact, this even ranges ahead of Lessing's *"Minna von Barnhelm"* — place 42. This is followed by Heinrich Kleist's *Michael Kohlhaas* in place 43, and even Gerhard Hauptmann's *Biberpelz* (Beaver Pelt) still makes the list with place 50.

But who are the publishers who participate in this bonanza? They are by no means the mammoths Heyne or Goldmann who do not make the list at all.

On the other hand, such an old-established publishing house as Reclam (this country's first publisher of classics in paper-back form dating back to the last

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IN BRIEF

300,000 attend Darmstadt art nouveau display

More than 300,000 people have attended the *art nouveau* exhibition in Darmstadt during the past three months.

Bernhard Krimmel, the head of the city's Department of Cultural Affairs, said that the exhibition had succeeded in presenting a critical review of this turn-of-the-century art style before a contemporary background.

Seventy-five years after the first art *nouveau* exhibition the new exhibition proved a resounding success.

The five-volume catalogue, which was printed in 30,000 copies, is sold out and an additional 5,000 copies had to be printed in order to meet the demand.

dpa

(Die Welt, 2 February 1977)

Ruhr Festival Week goes to Kassel

This year's Ruhr Festival Week will take place in Kassel starting from 3 June. The state of Hesse will pay 50 per cent of the cost, namely DM100,000.

This summer's programme includes an art exhibition, three to five performances of the Ruhr Festival production of Sternheim's *Bürger Schippel* (Citizen Schippel) directed by Roland Gall as well as events presented at the Recklinghausen Festival which was organised by the German Trade Union Federation.

The Ruhr Festival Week has previously been held in Salzgitter and Stuttgart.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 8 February 1977)

Unesco fine arts congress for Stuttgart

The International Congress of the International Society for the Fine Arts, which was initiated by Unesco, will for the first time be held in the Federal Republic in September 1979.

The 300 delegates from more than 50 countries will meet in Stuttgart, and their discussions will revolve around the subject "Art and the public."

The congress will be organised by the German section of the Society for the Fine Arts.

According to the chairman of the German Artists' Association, Herbert Hajek, the main objective of the 12-day congress will be to gain new insights into the effects of the fine arts on society as a whole.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 8 February 1977)

Antiquarian booksellers congress in Düsseldorf

The International League of Antiquarian Booksellers will hold this year's congress in the Federal Republic.

To mark the event, an "International Exhibition of Antiquarian Books 1977" will be held at the new Düsseldorf Exhibition Centre from 30 September to 3 October.

It is anticipated that foreign exhibitors will be in the majority.

A Stuttgart team headed by antiquarian Fritz Neidhardt will organise the exhibition, being held in this country for the first time.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 8 Feburary 1977)

■ SOCIOLOGY

Yugoslav artist's sketches depict plight of the 'guest worker'

In a number of cities in the Federal Republic births in foreign workers' families account for almost half the total birth rate.

From the statistical view point these children provide various drab cities with a respectable growth rate or at least keep the population figures constant. For official purposes they are classed as fellow citizens. In fact they are nothing of the sort.

At best they are regarded as second rate citizens. They are the workers who are prepared to take on badly-paid jobs that Germans turn down.

Officially foreign workers — most of whom are from Yugoslavia, Turkey and Italy — are referred to as "guest workers", but under the circumstances the term is more an insult than anything else.

Leftists tried to correct this to "emigrant labourers" — from the point of fiew of the exporter — or "immigrant labourers" — from the view point of those concerned with imports to the Federal Republic, which, with the aid of entry restrictions to the country and the like, manipulates the foreign "imported" work force to suit varying states of the economy.

A Yugoslav artist, Dragutin Trumbetas, has now come to the fore in his attempt to open the public's eyes to the whole miserable set-up.

"A little guest worker is born" is the title of one of his drawings, and the simplicity and realism of this is reflected in the drawing itself.

Ungainly awkwardness is the first impression one receives of it, and, looking at more of his work it is clear that his efforts are directed primarily at portraying just this: the ill-at-ease clumsiness of the foreign worker in this society which, even after two or thre generations, remains strange to him.

The soft, slightly crumpled roundness of the figures in his drawings contrasts sharply with the scenes in and against which they are placed.

The backgrounds of his pictures are representative of the German exterior and interior, typified by an almost Prussian precise adherence to geometrical perspectives, flaunting a senseless exactness and stiff-upper-lip, military-style control and discipline.

The facade may be crumbling, underneath everything is rotten and decayed, but appearances must be kept up to the last. This, at least, is how Dragutin Trumbetas sees the surroundings in which he and his kin are "guests". But he portrays his thoughts and observations with enough talent to make his "hosts" look twice.

Trumbetas has been living in the Federal Republic for more than ten years apart from a few short stays abroad. He is in his late thirties, is married with one child, who unfortunately needs constant medical care and lives with its grandmother near Zagreb. One other child died.

His wife was already working in the Federal Republic when he came here during the sixties to look for work. He is a trained type-setter, but was unable to find a type-setting job either in Yugoslavia or the Federal Republic.

For a short time he worked as presser before he managed eventually to find a type-setting job — a considerable achievement for, it is difficult for a foreign worker as a rule to find work as a skilled worker.

In his spare time he sketches, wanders through the streets of Frankfurt, takes photographs and reads a lot — at the moment he is especially preoccupied, with Joyce's *Ulysses*.

Dragutin Trumbetas is the son of a farmer. His parents still run the farm in Yugoslavia, but it will not be long before they are too old for this and want their son to return and take over the work.

He does not find the thought particularly attractive, and is afraid that he would then have even less time to do what he really wants to do — namely observe, criticise and sketch the society he lives in.

Even as a child his interests lay mainly in this direction. He was never exactly a model scholar and simply neglected subjects that did not interest him. But he did learn German.

He worked hard at art school in Zagreb but was considerably hampered by domestic problems. Tenacious and determined to succeed in art, he tried unsuccessfully to emigrate to Austria.

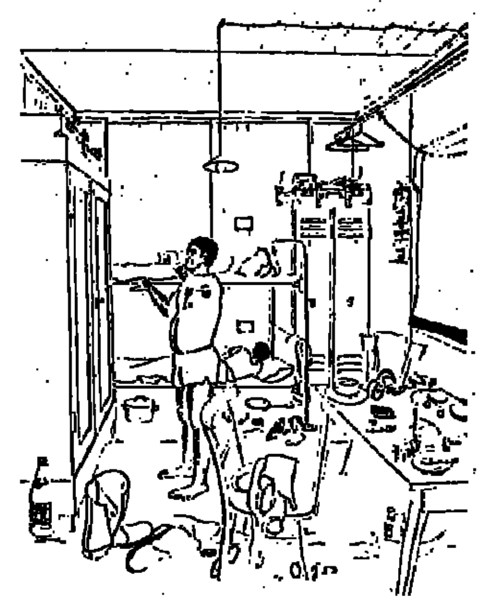
Later a partial break-through came. He did drawings for newspapers. He also had some contact with engineering drawings which is now of considerable value to him.

In the Federal Republic Trumbetas further developed his highly personal style of drawing and at the same time experienced the social situation in which foreign workers live in this country. His personal experience of this comes through strikingly in all his drawings — and his personal reactions of anger, sorrow, depression and irony.

Trumbetas knows and greatly admires George Grosz. Grosz, the agressor, dealt blow after blow at bourgeois capitalist and fascist attitudes. Trumbetas for his part is, however, in a very different situation.

He defends "his" people — of whom he is not uncritical — against what he regards as their antisocial, aggressive environment. He depicts the miserable experiences of foreign workers on arriving in this country and being treated more or less as goods, a necessary component of the consumer industry.

This reduction of human beings to the status of mere tools is painfully degrading and only too aptly represented in Dragutin Trumbetas' drawings.



'Gastarbeiter in Germany'
(Photos: Dragutin Trumbetas 'Gastarbeiter', ©Büchergilde Gutenberg, Frankfurt/M)

If work supposedly provides the means for a meaningful life then, for foreign workers pushed to the edge of society life has little chance of being meaningful or dignified. Work for them is the means for existence — for their families abroad as much as themselves.

Sociologists have called such cold-blooded use of others "impersonalisation" of people, and this is precisely what strikes out from every corner of Trumbetas' sketches with their impersonal urban scenes and dismal, cold houses. Anyone with an ounce of sensitivity towards others is bound to be shaken by the message of these pictures.

Trumbetas work is a diary of constant unrelenting destruction. "This world will soon be as uninhabitable as the moon" is the title of a book by Gerhard Zwerenz, who wrote an enthusiastic foreword to the book of Trumbetas' work which has now been published which has been translated into Croatian, Italian and Turkish. But it could well serve as a subtitle for Trumbetas' sketches.

And for this reason his work concerns Germans just as much as foreign workers in the Federal Republic. They depict unmistakably what the "first rate" citizens in this country all too often fail to notice of do not want to see.

At times it is as if Trumbetas has drawn these sketches specially for Germans to make them aware of what it is uncomfortable to be aware of.

Apart from criticism Trumbetas' pictures also express considerable fear — fear of the signs of resignation in the "guest workers", fear of the signs of them conforming to the habits, attitudes and customs of their "hosts".

It is no matter of chance that so many of his pictures are filled with men smoking and standing around drinking beer. They are already acquiring the air of the middle European.

And if they return to their own countries they no longer quite fit in. They are not altogether different, but different enough to be an outsider there as well as here.

The fate of foreign worker who return to their home country is an open secret that Trumbetas has not forgotten in his drawings.

These scenes clearly refer to the destruction of the family structure among these more of less homeless cosmopolitans, and the conflict that arises between members of a family who, often split up and living in different countries are dependent on each other, but no longer want each other.

Helmut Schmitz

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 5 February 1977)

Dragutin Trumbetas "Gastarbeiter", Büchergilde Gutenberg. Format 19.5x25.5 cm. Sixty-four drawings. Price, DM16.80

GASTARBEITER in Öl
Garantiert dritte Klasse
Ohne Rückgrat (mit Haut)

'Exports'

Children's road safety awareness tests

Continued from page 8

Why should there be? They evidently all found the film boring.

Is it fair to conclude that road safety training has no perceptible effect on children? This may be true of the film they were shown, but is it true of situations that may occur in real traffic? Does the experiment warrant abandoning practical kerb drill as a waste of time?

"Children ought to understand how traffic functions and to be in a position to view traffic problems critically," the second survey also claims.

The critical child might well ask why pulses are taken while they watch a film rather than when they are in real traffic. He might also ask why he is not just asked his opinion and why overtaking bans are not strictly enforced.

But this does not appear to be the kind of criticism the adults have in mind.

So surveys of this kind are dangerous. They make pseudo-scientific noises about dubious research assumptions and provide adults with a convenient pretext for ignoring a disgraceful state of affairs in which children are exposed to very real and ever-present danger on the road.

Inge Peter-Habermann

(Die Zeit, 4 February 1977)

Continued from page 10

century) is represented with 23 titles; Deutscher Taschenbuchverlag (dtv) has 10 titles included in the list, while Suhrkamp is represented with eight, Fischer with four, Rowohlt with three and Ullstein with two titles.

Of course, Reclam's production has always been geared to school requirements, and teachers, too, have found the Reclam series most useful over many generations.

There might be titles among our paper-backs which do not appeal to students, and book stores might well say that there is not much money in paper-backs, but it must be borne in mind that profit lies in turnover.

Helmut M. Braem

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 2 February 1977)

■ EDUCATION

Schools rarely to blame for child suicides

About five hundred children commit suicide in the Federal Republic and West Berlin each year. According to the latest available statistics from 1960 ten times this number of children attempt suicide.

Dr Klaus Thomas, founder and director of a medical society in Berlin for aiding people in danger of committing suicide — now working for the I. H. Schultz Institute — has spent 21 years helping such people. During this time he and his assistants have treated some six hundred school children who were about to attempt or had attempted suicide.

Dr Thomas, who quoted these figures at a medical conference on the prevention of suicide attempts by children and adolescents put forward his views on what leads children to take their own lives.

"School is rarely to blame," he said. But he went on to tell the sixty paediatricians, neurologists, GPs and child psychologists that "it often looks as if school is the cause."

According to statistics forty per cent of children who attempt suicide do so while suffering from severe depression. And about a quarter of adolescent suicide attempts arise from sexual problems. But behind all this it is society in general and insecurity at home that drives children to suicide.

Professor Gerhardt Nissen of the Humboldt hospital and youth psychiatric clinic in Wiesengrund said that childhood is only superficially the happiest time of a person's life.

Even in the most settled childhood children suffer from extreme changes of mood from the highest of spirits to the deepest despair.

He emphasised that children have no real notion of what death means. When they attempt suicide it is not so much a case of "wanting to die" as of "not wanting to carry on living" — that is, of escaping reality.

Attempted suicide, Dr Thomas said, is merely the "tip of a whole iceberg of inner despair". Seventy-five per cent of youngsters who try to take their lives tell someone of their intentions — of their need for help.

Professor Nissen added that an attempted suicide is usually the result of a long chain of unhappy experiences or long-standing depression. It has little to do with any immediate upset such as being forbidden to buy a new bicycle although the money is there or being forbidden to go out with a boy or girlfriend.

But Professor Nissen said that such incidents are typical of the domestic disharmony and disturbed child-parent relationships which may lead to suicide.

Too little is known about children's behaviour prior to committing suicide. Because of this they are often punished unjustly for what appears to be bad behaviour, which may naturally be particularly harmful to a child in need of help.

Depression is seldom recognised in children in its early stages, and by time the symptoms are evident it is high time to take steps to help them.

According to Dr Thomas common symptoms of depression in children are frequent crying, listlessness, inability to sleep properly and a tendency to be in particularly low spirits first thing in the morning. Sometimes these symptoms occur in phases and they may become evident suddenly if the child loses a favourite pet or relative.

Complexes and inhibitions are often misunderstood by adults. These include unreasonable fear and worry, various psychosomatic complaints resulting from depression and characterised by headaches and other aches and pains that have no apparent cause. They may also show other signs of nervous upset ranging from nail-biting and thumb-sucking to wetting the bed.

Usually more than one of the symptoms is present. Dr Thomas stresses that many suicides can be prevented if symptoms of depression and despair are recognised in time. He says that once a child is in acute danger of committing suicide it usually takes about six weeks to bring him back to normal.

It was agreed at the conference that schools could do much to help prevent child suicides in the course teaching and by giving lessons on sex.

Dr Thomas says that during the first few years when he started working with suicide cases girls came to him because they were pregnant. In the last six years or so they have been coming to him because they felt they were being pushed into intimate relationships before they were ready.

Proposals were put forward for confidential pupils' advisers and a special telephone advisory service in schools. Ideally teachers should be informed more about the signs of depression and despair in children so that they can step in and see that they are helped before it is too late. *Wolfgang Lehmann*

(Der Tagesspiegel, 6 February 1977)

Experts meet to discuss ways of improving life in the classroom

Education experts met recently at a conference organised by the Rhineland Palatinate Minister of Education Hanna-Renate Laurien to discuss ways of improving education in schools.

Parents are becoming increasingly alarmed about their children's future under the present, inordinately competitive school system and about the content of school curricula and forms of teaching.

Before the two-day long conference began Frau Laurien put a damper on high hopes and expectations about its outcome. "It will be necessary to make a careful analysis of the school crisis before anything definite can be said about how to deal with shortcomings in the system," she said.

However, education experts at the conference, among them the well-known Professors Flitner, Ballauf, Schaller and Schorb were in no doubt as to the validity of the constant complaints about "insupportable" conditions to which school children are subjected.

The present difficulties have arisen partly through no fault of the schools themselves. Classrooms have become overfilled since the high birth rate of the sixties began to take effect.

What is more, shortage of university places and training posts is putting unbearable pressure on school children to outdo others in their year.

And parents — however well-meaning — put still more pressure on their children because they are afraid they will fall short of the high academic standards demanded today.

For their part schools and teachers are also being considerably hampered by an ever-tightening net of regulations and decrees that has been cast over them by the courts.

Usually as a result of parents, distrustful of teachers and politicians, courts have demanded that laws be passed concerning the content and length of teaching hours, classes for backward children, instruction in sex, transferring children to other classes, for the five-day week and reform of secondary modern schools.

Because of a tendency to make schools and syllabi the same in each state — although each state is responsible for its own educational establishments — experts believe that progress and reform in schools is being hindered.

Experts at the conference agreed unanimously that too much emphasis has been placed on "lessons", on the academic side of school and not enough on education in a broader sense.

In elementary schools where children are still very young this is particularly ill-advised. Because children are expected to swallow large chunks of purely theoretical knowledge, the level of learning drops and they become bored or aggressive.

It may be that too much is being asked of school children today, but only because the education they are receiving is far too one-sided. Rather than simply sitting and listening to a droning series of lecture-style lessons every day children want to do something themselves.

"One of the kids on my class breathed a sigh of relief and said 'Now we're getting some action at long last' when I started a project aimed at increasing pupils' imagination and creativity," said one headmaster at the conference.

Frau Laurien agreed with him. "The



more factual knowledge and academic ability children are expected to have, the greater the temptation and the tendency is to pile on dry theoretical teaching and bombard children with mere facts through films, videotapes and in language laboratories."

Such teaching methods inevitably get in the way of a healthy balanced teacher-pupil relationship. Children end up making teachers' lives a misery and teachers become intolerant and impatient, she said.

Nevertheless participants at the conference were unable to agree whether less academic educational methods — more stimulating projects in which the children can actively teach themselves — could or should be made a regular feature of schools.

A number of people at the conference felt that if teachers and pupils felt this was absolutely necessary they could get together out of school hours to carry out such projects and experiments.

Professor Schaller was of the opinion that the schools' grave mistake in ignoring their responsibilities for bringing up children and devoting some time and effort to more general practical teaching is a result of the general reluctance of teachers to drum correct values and modes of conduct into children as was formerly always the case.

It is perfectly possible to teach children basic principles of values such as freedom, equality, consideration for others, emancipation, freedom of speech, cooperation, responsibility, and the will to improve one's social environment simply in the course of teaching.

Instead of this however, many teachers preferred to stick to the immediate subject matter and to ignore these very important values. Professor Schaller added that this left children open to the danger of adverse influence by others.

Heinz Joachim Melder

(Die Welt, 1 February 1977)

Actors to help children develop their personalities

Forty actors and actresses are going to be teaching in schools throughout the country in an experimental attempt to help children learn to develop and project their personalities and to learn to cope with various social situations and experiences.

Four actors have been assigned to fifteen schools in Bremen. Bremen Education Senator Moritz Thape said recently that the main purpose of the experiment — which will last two and a half years — is to teach children to use their imaginations more and to develop control and consciousness of their bodily movements.

This is necessary, he said, to avoid neglecting the creative, emotional and social side of education. Later this experiment may provide actors with a permanent opportunity of working in schools.

The actors will not be employed as teachers in the normal sense. Their method of teaching will be far more practically orientated and demands much more involvement on the children's part than normal lessons.

In contrast to "normal" teachers the actors will demonstrate actively how to use their voices and movements expressively. This would scarcely be possible in formal classroom teaching.

The actors will be working as a team rather than independently. Children will also be involved in acting. As a team the actors will be able to work more flexibly and more easily put across what they are trying to teach the children.

The children will be taught not only how to express themselves by controlled movements, but how to express themselves in relation to and in interaction with others in a group.

It has also been decided that the subject matter of the enacted scenes should not be overloaded with social criticism since this would be more likely to interfere with progress than to help.

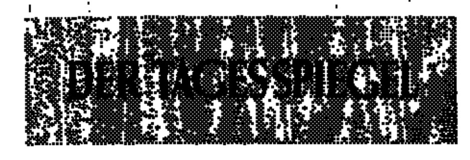
The content of teaching programme was worked out jointly by teachers and actors. The scenes enacted will range from person-to-person interaction scenes to larger scenes in which the children can also participate.

The actors will be moving constantly from school to school, but are to work with each group of children at least once a month so that the children can consolidate and improve upon the work they have done in between.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 4 February 1977)

■ MEDICINE

EEC doctors' congress considers ways of standardising advanced training



Doctors in EEC countries can now work in any EEC country of their choice, whether in hospitals or in private medical practice. The final go-ahead was given on 19 December last year.

Doctors are the first professional groups for which an agreement of this sort has been reached — surprisingly enough, since medical training and specialist training varies greatly from state to state. Even after years of discussion and negotiation it has proved impossible to set common standards for basic training.

But it is important that an agreement be reached as regards further training for doctors throughout their careers. This training is necessary to keep doctors up to date with the latest medical discoveries and developments, and to maintain standards.

A medical congress was held recently in Bad Nauheim, Hesse, to discuss common problems between EEC states as regards post-graduate training. Although the problems are similar in all countries, their methods of dealing with them have so far been varied.

Interest in organising such a conference grew up out of lay interest in medical standards. Many people feel that if health costs are to continue to rise steeply, the service offered must at least be as competent and as economic as possible.

This can only be achieved, however, if doctors follow up their basic training after qualifying. Legislation making post-graduate courses obligatory is under consideration in several EEC countries — much to the doctors' dismay. They would rather that responsibility for this was left in their own hands.

Obligatory post-graduate training for doctors has been introduced only in Hungary and, recently, the Federal Republic. Obligatory post-graduate training for all doctors in this country was entered into the medical statutes at last year's national medical conference. Since then the Social Health Insurance Act has been amended to make further training for doctors associated with the Social Health Insurance authorities compulsory. Details of implementation have not yet been worked out.

At the Bad Nauheim conference doctors agreed that it was fairly pointless to force trained and experienced doctors back into to the "school room".

Doctors from all countries said it would be far more valuable and appropriate to revise and reform the content and form of further medical training systems.

If the complaints in Bad Nauheim are anything to go by all, the EEC countries desperately need to raise the standard of post-graduate training — in some, naturally, more than others.

The Federal Republic is not so badly off in this respect. Foreign guests at the conference were greatly impressed by the Hesse college of further medical training, in which the conference was held.

The Society of Physicians in Hesse is rightly proud of being the first in the Federal Republic to have opened such a training complex.

A similar training centre was set up in Berlin — now East Berlin — in 1906 by the Kaiserin Friedrich Foundation for further medical education. The foundation was revived a few years ago by Professor Wilhelm Heim.

The initiator of this foundation, the well-known Berlin surgeon, Ernst von Bergmann, was particularly keen even at the turn of the century to entrust the running of further training courses to hospital doctors rather than to university professors.

He was well aware that doctors who were willing to take part in such courses expected to be supplied with constructive, practical information to complement their own experiences.

But this is still a bone of contention even today in several European countries. At the conference Professor Maurice Guéniot (Paris) upheld the view still favoured in France that universities are and should be responsible for all further education. His view instantly met with loud protests from a French general practitioner.

In the Netherlands, universities are also theoretically responsible for post-graduate medical training — as for all other professions as well. In practice, however, the situation there is the same as in the Federal Republic — namely that medical organisations and hospitals do the real work of keeping doctors up to date.

But in discussing this problem another issue came to light at the Nauheim conference. Without forming definite ideas about what post graduate medical training should be ideally, agreement will never be reached, either nationally or internationally.

Unfortunately aims and ideas on this subject are often hopelessly divergent. Some are in favour of keeping doctors continually informed about progress in the field of medicine generally, and logically enough, are clamouring for university lectures to take over.

Others — mostly GPs and private practitioners — are far less interested in theoretical progress in medicine as in the practical side of medicine. They look at it from the point of view of patients' needs and feel that further training courses could be used to make up for the deficiencies of medical care. Naturally these consider hospitals — particularly smaller hospitals — joint practices and regional and local doctors' organisation as ideally suited to handle further training because there the accent is more on the practical side of medicine. Other medical experts not just practising doctors, regard further medical training as mere refresher course for doctors who graduated some time ago. The courses are an opportunity to consolidate their experiences and learn to make the best possible use of the knowledge they have gained in practice.

"Further training helps fill the gap between what a doctors knows and does and what he ought to know and do" said Professor Constantino Iandolo, medical director of the Rome Hospitals Association. In an illustrated lecture Professor Iandolo proposed some basic principles for further training for doctors.

He stressed the importance of the practical side of medicine, and said that it is the application of medicine that counts in treating and preventing illness and not mere theoretical knowledge.

This is what makes it particularly difficult to check up on how effective further training courses for doctors are, although everyone in Bad Nauheim was prepared to admit that this was highly necessary.

Dr Hermann Kerger, president of the Hesse college, explained why this is so: "In the long term, the diversity of modern methods of diagnosis, treatment and the risks of misuse involved will make it inevitable that doctors' ways and methods of practising medicine be subject to periodic checks."

If the EEC doctors manage to reach an agreement as to how such checks could be carried out they may then be able to retain the responsibility and control of post-graduate medical training.

Rosemarie Stein

(Der Tagesspiegel, 1 February 1977)



Cancer therapy

The latest equipment to be used in the fight against cancer is the "Karlsruhe Ring Ion Source Neutron Generator" (KARIN). The apparatus, based on a Swiss patent, was built by Albrecht Schmidt at the Karlsruhe Nuclear Research Centre, and will be used for treatment of cancer patients who have grown resistant to X-Ray and other conventional therapy methods. The apparatus is at present undergoing tests at the German Cancer Centre, Heidelberg. (Photo: Gesellschaft für Kernforschung)

Medical computer conference in Berlin

Computers have not yet quite taken over from doctors, but they are becoming more and more indispensible to medicine. An idea of just how important they are can be gained from the first international medical computer congress, — "Medcomp '77" — which has now been opened in Berlin.

More than six hundred doctors and computer experts from 24 countries, including some East bloc states, are participating at the congress.

Medcomp '77 has been organised by the Berlin exhibition organisation and the British Online Conferences. Apart from the computer exhibition connected with the congress, information is also available about using computers in hospitals and private practice.

The value of computers for hospital work is obvious. Computers are particularly useful in processing laboratory data. And they can also help doctors in diagnosing and treating illness.

Computers can be used to work out radiation schedules for radiation therapy which normally require much time-consuming paper-work. But they complete the work in less time, more accurately and give extremely detailed and precise calculations for achieving the greatest effect with the lowest radiation dosage.

The use of computers in private practice is slightly more of a problem. They can, of course, spare doctors and their surgery assistants a great deal of tedious paper-work — for instance with electronically fed files on patients.

But the cost of such computers for private practice only is still prohibitive. At the moment there are only a very few doctors who have invested in such equipment. And in the foreseeable future there are not likely to be more than a couple of hundred.

The exhibition includes all types of medical computers from integrated hospital information systems to "fully automatic" private medical practice computers and table computers that can be programmed for a variety of different purposes.

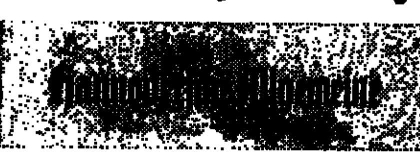
Even people who go into a cold sweat at the mere sight of such complicated technological inventions need not fear. All the computers on exhibition can be operated by any layman in a very short time.

The exhibition, which is open to the general public is, admittedly, an astonishing monument to technological progress. But at the same time it is daunting to think of being delivered up to the hands of a complicated and impersonal system of computers and machines when ill. *Liselotte Müller*

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 7 February 1977)

■ OUR WORLD

Make life-long prison terms shorter, says lawyer after studying 81 cases



Long prison sentences teach criminals reserve, self control, modesty in their personal demands and a sense of reality, say defenders of conservative theories about penal law.

Mechthild Gömann of Cologne University, firmly believes for instance that working regularly every day, fitting into a social routine and learning self control are probably the most decisive socialising factors of a long prison sentence.

"A load of nonsense" is the reaction of Göttingen lawyer and sociologist Peter-Alexis Albrecht to such statements.

Herr Albrecht has spent several years tracing what happened to all 81 of the "lifers" who were released from prison in Lower Saxony between 8 May 1945 and 1 October 1973.

And his overall view is that, on the contrary, "A long term of imprisonment destroys prisoners' ability to fit into society."

Herr Albrecht spent some time at Celle prison as part of his practical training in 1971. There he came in direct contact with the problems of prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment.

Commissioned by the prison directors he later compiled reports on criminals who had been given life sentences for the Ministry of Justice. He traced most of these former prisoners and asked them to fill up a questionnaire.

Three of the ex-convicts refused to have anything to do with Herr Albrecht's study — which was later published as a dissertation. And ten of them had already died. In these cases Herr Albrecht collected as much information as possible from relatives, probation officers or other people who knew the person in question.

Since there are about four hundred "lifers" in the Federal Republic who have already served out their sentences the ex-convicts Herr Albrecht interviewed may well be regarded as a representative cross-section.

Herr Albrecht started by finding out what sort of people get sentenced to life imprisonment. The answer to this is the story of the whole study in a nut-shell: Fifty per cent of them are from the lower ranges of the lower class (unemployed) and social drop-out groups, often people with no homes.

Almost thirty per cent are from the upper lower class and had mostly some vocational qualifications.

The remainder are from the middle classes and this group mainly comprised the thirteen Nazis who have been released after serving life sentences in Lower Saxony.

The murders these people committed are closely connected with their social circumstances. Thirty-two murderers who had a personal relationship to their victims belonged to the upper lower class. Of these, fourteen killed their wives or girlfriends, five their children, six near relatives and seven murdered friends or people at work.

The 36 ex-convicts who coupled murder with theft were almost all casual labourers and unemployed who murdered strangers for material gain.

"If anything it is not prison but the circumstances in which these people live that terrifies and appalls them," says Herr Albrecht.

He also points out that criminals at the lower end of the social scale tend to be given a raw deal when it comes to reprieves. Life sentences last on average 19.4 years in Lower Saxony. But these lifers generally have to serve much longer sentences than, for instance the Nazi murderers.

The Nazi criminals also have the advantage that their families have not rejected or deserted them and when they are released from prison they do not normally have any immediate financial worries.

Admittedly their standard of living may not be as high as it once was but; as Herr Albrecht points out, "They have come down to a social level that many others can never even aspire to."

Ex-prisoners from the lower lower class and social drop-out groups often feel, rightly, that their record puts them in a much worse position than people from higher social groups who leave prison with vocational qualifications.

Skilled workers and low-ranking white collar workers have considerably less difficulty in finding work and keeping straight after their release than those with no qualifications.

Material circumstances are a decisive factor in prisoners' process of readjusting to society on being released from prison. And this in turn is, to a major extent dependent on their families' attitudes.

Their attitude towards the ex-prisoner is largely dependent on the length of sentence. Prisoners who are released after seven to fifteen years are generally able to return to their families. And they then usually manage to get safely through the first difficult period after their release and afterwards go straight. In fact only about five per cent of lifers commit another serious crime after being released.

The longer the sentence, the more likely the chance that the released prisoner will find he has no family to return to on release. Thirty per cent of convicts who are sentenced to between fifteen and twenty years lose all contact with their families — and not only wives, who generally get a divorce, but also children, brothers and sisters,

Even those who, finding themselves alone, rush to find a new girlfriend, rarely have much luck. Such relationships all too often go to the dogs after a short while, especially in the case of ex-prisoners from the underprivileged classes, since they start suffering from a so-called "stigma syndrome".

They are unable to forget the past, are almost neurotically afraid of becoming involved in a punishable offence and go through a phase of being "yes-men" rather than risk any trouble by voicing their own opinions.

As a result of these findings Herr Albrecht is advocating that the length of life sentences be limited by law and for more effective rehabilitation schemes which would give ex-prisoners who are socially at a disadvantage a better chance of successfully starting a new life.

In anticipation of the protests that his proposals may call forth, Herr Albrecht emphasises that "obviously no prisoner sentenced to life imprisonment could be released before thorough checks on him had been carried out."

Dieter Stäcker

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 2 February 1977)

Firms give employees time off 'to do their bit' for society

Rank Xerox, the office equipment manufacturers, started a scheme three years ago whereby employees of the firm can leave their desks for up to six months to go and "do their bit" for society by working for any social cause or welfare organisation of their choice.

The company guarantees that salaries will be paid in full during this period and that employees who take advantage of this opportunity will in no way suffer any adverse consequences through being absent from the firm.

At the end of their period of service employees can return to their old job or one of equal standing.

So far eleven employees from the firm's head office in Düsseldorf and its branches between Bremen and Frankfurt have taken the plunge and gone to help mostly with children and in old peoples homes. Altogether they have contributed 48 months' work.

Thirty-six year old Hans-Jörg Dick, for instance, left his job as personnel manager for six months and worked in the Offenbach home for the elderly. There, he brought them their meals, washed them and wheeled them out for walks in wheel chairs. At the end of his time there he returned to the position he had previously held.

Horst Saganty (25), a budget coordination expert helped in a home for the severely physically and mentally handicapped in Mönchengladbach for three months. "They are always glad to get helpers there," he says, "because too few people are prepared to take up that sort of work full-time."

And two other employees of Rank Xerox spent six months giving a hand in a private home in Bremen for the old and handicapped offering patients advice about their affairs and any help they needed.

Other firms have started similar schemes by which the encourage their employees to take up political office as a contribution to the country's progress and development. These include such firms as Siemens, Daimler, Shell and Sandoz.

Parties and parliaments can well do with the opinions and advice of ordinary industrial employees. Politicians' impressions and views of working conditions in the private industrial sector and of its problems are formed mostly from TV programmes and occasional visits to firms. They are therefore glad to get an inside opinion when legislation which will affect all white and blue collar workers is coming up for debate.

In 1949 only a bare twenty MPs in this country were civil service employees. Today almost half the MPs in the Bundestag are civil service employees, and in some state parliaments — in Bavaria, Baden-Wurttemberg, Hesse and the Saar they have already topped the fifty per cent mark.

"Expert knowledge is required in politics," says Siemens, and the company is doing all it can to see that this is supplied. Candidates for a seat in the Bundestag are released from their jobs with full pay for two months prior to elections so that they can work on their election campaign. Candidates for state parliaments are given four weeks.

But that is not all. Anyone who succeeds in getting into the Bundestag is given as much free time as he needs for his political work. A town-councillor is given a number of free hours each week.

"We do not want our employees to have to do double time and sit in the office for fours on end at night to keep up with his work in the firm," is Siemens' view of the matter.

And Siemens employees who do take time out for political work need have no fears about their future careers. "Our people know that if they get a seat in the Bundestag they will not have to start from the bottom again when they return to the firm," said one spokesman.

Siemens furthermore guarantees that they will suffer no financial losses, including perquisites and other benefits for employees.

But this scheme has not met with universal approval. Quite a few firms have openly laughed at the idea of it and IG Metall; this country's metal workers' union has voiced suspicions that Siemens is doing its utmost to get up a "Siemens lobby".

Siemens insists, however, that it is in no way thinking of its own interests in helping MPs who are on its staff.

The Sandoz AG in Basel has made a similar declaration in defence of its motives and has informed its employees who are involved in politics that "The Sandoz AG refrains from becoming in any way involved in its employees' public activities."

This Swiss chemicals and pharmaceuticals concern has been encouraging its employees to take up positions of public responsibility and has been supporting those who do this in every way it can for a number of years.

In fact as far as its higher-ranking employees are concerned Sandoz does more than just encourage them to become involved in public duties.

They are more or less obliged to occupy "at least one-fifth of their time with work towards the general weal of the community." As a general rule this is made clear to prospective upper bracket employees before their salary is fixed.

Such work is considered particularly important for the firm since it conveys to other employees that their bosses are "more humanist than technocrat" and are in the habit of weighing up the effects of their decisions on those around them.

Hans-Dieter Kulhay

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 5 February 1977)

■ SPORT

Gold Medallist Annegret Richter aims to break 11-second barrier

Annegret Richter, the 100 metres gold medallist at Montreal, has not been in the news much of late. The spate of post-Olympic honours and publicity that came the way of the fastest woman in the world is now little more than a memory.

But the 26-year-old clerical worker for the Dortmund welfare authorities is back in harness, training eight to ten times a week.

By her own account she averages three hours a day, or 21 hours a week — which is a half-day job by any reckoning. The other half of her day she spends earning a living.

With two Olympic gold medals to her credit Annegret Richter has now embarked on a final season in top-flight athletics with a view to becoming the first woman in the world to run the 100 metres in less than eleven seconds.

She ran her current world record time of 11.01 in the Olympic semi-finals at Montreal and needs only to clip another two hundredths of a second off this time to break the tape in 10.99 seconds.

"It will require every bit as much training as my pre-Olympic schedule," she says. "I must be equally ambitious and determined."

Is there any other female sprint specialist on the horizon who might beat her to the mark? "I can't see anyone doing so at present," she reckons, "but you never can tell."

She came so close to eleven seconds at Montreal that she feels unable to resist the temptation to try and try again. "If my fastest time in Montreal had been 11.08 seconds, say, as it was in the finals, I would never have dreamt of carrying on for another season."

Where does she think the limit lies? "10.95 or 10.94 seconds," she reckons. "My trainer Wolfgang Thiele feels 10.8 seconds may yet prove possible but I can hardly imagine it."

So her immediate aim this season is to run the 100 metres in 10.99 seconds, but she will need a combination of good luck, peak form and ideal conditions.

The weather must be warm, with not a trace of rain or a cold spell. She must have the advantage of a tailwind, but no more than the two metres a second which are the maximum the IAAF allows.

It stands to reason that she must be at her physical and mental best on the day. World records can only be set up in exceptional conditions.

With this in mind Annegret Richter has calmly decided to carry on for another exhausting season. She is already steeling herself for the ordeal. "At the moment I am certainly in better form than I was this time last year," she says. "Last year at this time I could do little more than jog because of sciatica. All I could do was run as fast as the pain would allow, and that only six to seven times a week." This year will definitely be her last season as a serious contender over the sprint distances, even if her last race is a disappointing twelve seconds. "I shall be 27 next birthday and I feel it is time I started a family. In the past, sport has been the hub of my life, but there will have to be changes sooner or later." Her husband, hurdles specialist Manfred Richter, will shortly be taking his final exams as an engineer. Then he will be working for a living and their life will return to normal. On the day of the interview Annegret Richter was involved in a car crash in Dortmund. Damage to the vehicles involved amounted to about 2,000 deutschmarks, but no one was injured. "Luck has to be on your side," she commented, and she can certainly count herself lucky that her sporting career and hopes were not brought to an abrupt and premature end.

Robert Hartmann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 3 February 1977)



Annegret Richter

Coach Wilfried Hurst develops first indoor javelin training device

The noise at Möhringen gymnasium, near Stuttgart, is ear-splitting. Eva Helmschmidt, 19, of whom national javelin trainer Wilfried Hurst says she may well outthrow Olympic silver medallist Marion Becker next season, is in the middle of a training session.

She throws the javelin at the gymnasium wall for all she is worth, then steps back exhausted to let the next girl get in some practice.

Since the beginning of this year the Stuttgart gym has boasted the world's first and so far only indoor javelin training machine eight metres (26ft 3in) long.

Javelin specialists have a hard time of it during the winter. Indoor facilities in which they can practise throwing the javelin ninety metres (295ft) and more, do not exist.

Then coach Hurst, who is a Stuttgart headmaster, started experimenting. His Mark I indoor trainer can be assembled or dismantled in a minute or so and is shortly to be manufactured in series.

Marion Becker has also tried her hand at the indoor trainer and is delighted. It consists of a set of movable weights of up to ten kilos (22lb) that are attached to a steel hawser.

Athletes throw an imitation javelin at a plastic target. The javelin is then returned to its starting position. The trajectory can be set at between 33 and forty degrees, depending on the athlete's height.

"The thrower is forced to adopt the right stance, to take the right throwing action and to throw the javelin at the right angle. He or she can do nothing wrong," Wilfried Hurst claims.

Hurst is the soul of modesty ("I am responsible for fifteen per cent at most of the successes my squad notch up") but he is nothing if not creative in his approach to training.

He has, for instance, rented an acre of forest and twice a week his girls practise chopping away at tree trunks with blunted axes.

They are also told to throw pebbles as far as they can. "Their muscles are forced to contract faster," Wilfried Hurst explains.

His ideas and the time he spends on them naturally have an aim in view. What he wants is to make sure that Marion Becker's success does not turn out to have been a one-shotter.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 3 February 1977)

Eva Wilms' trainer says the Pill can help build rippling muscles

Eva Wilms from Munich dragged the shot put in this country out of the doldrums in which it has languished for many years.

Her personal best of 20.94 metres, or 68ft 2in, it can only be compared with the performances of East bloc Amazons.

The muscular Westphalian girl is also a force to be reckoned with in the pentathlon. At the end of last season Eva Wilms came only eight points short of the pentathlon world record held by Burglinde Pollack of the GDR.

Eva, a student, is certainly a strapping girl, as might be expected of a shot-putter. The first thought that comes to mind is "Does she take anabolic steroids or similar body-building drugs?"

Christian Gehrmann, her trainer, is a powerfully-built former discus specialist who is now national coach of the shot-putters and discus throwers.

Eva Wilms (Photos: Sven Simon)

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Eva Wilms has been one of his squad for many years. With medical assistance he has devised a detailed training schedule and vitamin diet that have helped her to come into her own.

But the secret of his success is the Pill. "The contraceptive pill can achieve fantastic results with women athletes," he claims.

The basic idea is disarmingly simple. A gynaecologist ascertains the athlete's hormone count and selects from the 55 to sixty brands of contraceptive pill currently marketed in this country the Pill that seems tailor-made to provide the right balance of oestrogen and gestagen.

The effect is much the same as that of anabolic steroids — rippling muscles, providing the Pill is combined with a suitable training schedule.

Anabolic sterioids are banned by the IOC, but the Pill is not. What is more, there is no way of penalising a woman athlete merely for taking contraceptive pills.

As trainer Gehrmann sees it, the solution is child's play. Put a woman on the right Pill, subject to medical advice, and combine it with a training schedule designed to put those muscles through their paces.

The idea is not even new. It was first mooted in print by Professor Kemper, the Munich sports specialist, in 1973 and had long been in use in East bloc countries, as Western athletes realised later.

Christian Gehrmann would be not in the least surprised if the Pill turned out to be old-hat these days. The Russians, he fancies, have even more effective aids at their disposal, of which we in the West are as yet completely unaware.

Bernd Dassel

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 4 February 1977)